

Russia supplying arms to Serbs — report

LONDON (AP) — Russia has agreed to supply \$360 million worth of arms, including sophisticated missiles, to Serbia and Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia and Croatia, the Observer reported Sunday. The newspaper said the Russian army and intelligence service signed a secret arms agreement with Serbian leaders last month following negotiations in Romania and Bulgaria. Such an agreement would violate the United Nations arms embargo against all factions in the former Yugoslavia. The Observer said the Serbs agreed to buy T-55 medium tanks and an array of anti-aircraft and anti-missile missiles capable of destroying targets up to 600 kilometres away. It said Russian soldiers and technicians have already been sent to operate the missile batteries. It said some of them have been positioned in Serbian-held Krajina, where Serb forces are fighting back with increasing success against a surprise Croatian onslaught that began days after the arms deal was signed on Jan. 22.

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King hosts Iftar

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday hosted at the Royal Court an iftar banquet in honour of members of the Royal Family, former prime ministers, cabinet members, the Amman mayor, senior Royal Court officials, secretaries general of ministries, Arab and Muslim ambassadors and governors. The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, their Royal Highnesses Princess Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Prince Hamzah Ben Al Hussein, and Prince Hashem Ben Al Hussein and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. King Hussein and the guest performed Al Maghreb prayer together.

Diouf wins polls, state media say

DAKAR (R) — Senegal's state media Sunday proclaimed President Abdou Diouf the winner of multi-party elections, but the outcome was clouded by legal wrangling and opposition charges of fraud. State radio and television said Mr. Diouf won more than 58 per cent of the vote in last Sunday's poll, compared with 32 per cent for his closest rival, opposition leader Abdoulaye Wade. Six other candidates were far behind. The pro-government daily Le Soleil published the same results in a special Sunday edition. They were derived from figures declared at local polling stations throughout the country, but not endorsed by the official electoral commission made up of representatives of all eight candidates.

Lillian gish dies

NEW YORK (AP) — Lillian Gish, a fragile looking but resilient actress who appeared in more than 100 films in a career that stretched from silent masterpieces to the television age, died, her manager said Sunday. She was 99. Miss Gish, one of the last surviving stars of the American silent cinema, died Saturday at her Manhattan home, said James Frasher, her manager for the last 25 years. "She was film. Film started in 1893, and so did she," Mr. Frasher said. Her film career spanned 75 years, starting with one and two-reelers in 1912 and ending with 1987's "The Whales of August." Even before that, she was a child stage actress.

IRA says it planted London bomb

LONDON (R) — Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas Sunday claimed responsibility for the latest bomb attack in mainland Britain which injured 18 in north London. At the same time the paramilitary organisation fighting British rule in Northern Ireland launched an internal inquiry into suspicious informant was in its midst. Republican sources in Ireland told Reuters they believed the attack in Camden Saturday was a gesture of defiance after police foiled an IRA operation on Friday.

Demjanjuk to launch hunger strike

TEL AVIV (R) — The man sentenced to death as Nazi killer "Ivan the terrible" will go on hunger strike from Monday to demand Israeli judges end nine months of deliberation and rule on his appeal, his lawyer said. Yoram Sheftel, lawyer for former U.S. carworker John Demjanjuk, said Sunday: "We're speaking of a real hunger strike that will begin tomorrow morning." Born Ivan Demjanjuk in Ukraine 72 years ago, the accused says he is a victim of mistaken identity and that a long missing man named Ivan Marchenko was the brutal "Ivan" who gassed and tortured people at Treblinka camp in World War II.

PLO seeks improved terms of reference for Mideast peace process

Expellee crisis offers chance to demand Israeli commitment to 242 in Palestinian track of talks

By Wafa Amr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is seeking improved terms of reference for peace talks with Israel before the resumption of the stalled peace process based on a six-point compromise deal worked out by the U.S., senior PLO sources said Sunday.

While the PLO has given its agreement in principle for the compromise, Israel is resisting some of the phrasing of the document, which is aimed at ending the crisis sparked by the Jewish state's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians to South Lebanon in December.

The main stipulation sought by the PLO, which guides the Palestinian negotiating team, is an Israeli commitment to withdraw from the Arab territories the Jewish state occupied in the 1967 war in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, according to the sources.

Under the present terms of reference issued by the United

States, there is no Israeli commitment to withdrawal. In fact Israel has not even agreed that Resolution 242 applies to the Israeli-Palestinian track of negotiations while it has undertaken that the 1967 resolution does apply in its talks with Syria.

The six-point compromise proposal over the expellees includes a reference to resolutions 242 and 338 in what was seen by observers as an American gesture to appease the Palestinians and entice them back to the negotiating table.

By the same token, the PLO is seeking political gains out of the crisis over the expellees, trying to secure an Israeli commitment to 242 — something that has eluded eight rounds of bilateral talks launched since the Madrid conference.

Such a commitment would also help the mainstream PLO leadership to placate hardline Palestinian factions which oppose the peace talks saying the present terms of reference are not in favour of Palestinian rights.

The Palestinian demands were

given to Mr. Christopher last week and the inclusion of some of the points in the compromise formula was seen as American acknowledgement of the Palestinian position.

The Palestinians have informed that they would be attending the resumed peace talks if Israel agreed to the six points and made the necessary commitments. This position was relayed to Molly Williamson, the American consul-general in Arab East Jerusalem, at a meeting Friday, the sources said.

Israel, coming under American and international pressure to end the expellee crisis, has agreed to such a commitment but has balked at formally including it as part of the compromise proposal, the PLO sources told the Jordan Times.

Palestinians also demanding renewed American assurances that the original terms of reference would not be violated by Israel in future negotiations.

"It is necessary to repair the

(Continued on page 5)

Exiles 'concerned only with return'

MARI AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon, (R) — Palestinian exiles said Sunday a reported six-point U.S. proposal on ending the crisis over their expulsion and resuming Middle East peace talks would only complicate matters.

The leader of the 396 exiles stranded for 10 weeks in southern Lebanon said their return home should be the top item in any agreement hammered out by Israel and Palestinian negotiators.

"We are only concerned with one point: Implementing U.N. Security Council resolution 799," said Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi. "I don't see any reason for us to complicate this issue."

The resolution, passed a day

after the men were banished on Dec. 17, demands that Israel ensure their safe and immediate return to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian sources said Saturday the United States was trying to nudge Israel and Palestinians into a six-point deal to resume Middle East peace talks stalled by the expulsions.

"I will make it easy on (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin and his government. We only ask for one point from the six and that is implementation of 799," Dr. Rantisi told reporters.

He is free to implement the other five points if he wants." The Palestinian sources said the points, assembled by U.S.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher on a visit last week to Israel, were:

— A U.S. statement that expulsions are illegal and a U.S. commitment that Israel will implement fully Resolution 799.

— A U.S. commitment that the next round of peace talks in Washington will focus clearly on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 and that the status of Jerusalem can be discussed.

— A "binding commitment" from Israel not to carry out any future expulsions.

— The accelerated return of the exiles "in compliance with" Resolution 799.

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Syria: Iraq partition threatens area

KUWAIT (R) — The effective partition of Iraq by Western-imposed "no-fly" zones poses a threat to Middle East security and stability, Syria's foreign minister was quoted as saying in remarks published Sunday.

Farouq Al Sharaa told the English-language Arab Times newspaper that despite Western denials, partition had become a reality following the imposition of the air exclusion areas and the emergence of a separate government in Iraqi Kurdistan.

"We believe that the partition of Iraq poses a serious threat to the security and stability of the region regardless of the regime in

power in Baghdad," he was quoted as saying in an interview. "It will result in serious complications," he said, without elaborating.

The West imposed "no-fly" zones in the north and south of Iraq after the 1991 Gulf war ostensibly to protect Kurdish and Shiite groups.

"We believe that Kurds are being exploited to achieve certain goals which do not serve their long-term interests," Mr. Sharaa said, without giving details.

Earlier this month, the foreign ministers of Syria, Turkey and Iran — countries which have Kurdish and other minorities of their

own — met to underline their opposition to any partition of Iraq.

In the interview, Mr. Sharaa said the Gulf war allies "missed a golden opportunity" to oust the regime of Saddam Hussein at the end of the war and Syria still did not know whether the West wanted President Saddam in power or not.

"I can say that a golden opportunity to change the Iraqi regime was there soon after the liberation of Kuwait, but the allies were afraid of that change and thus in one way or another helped the

(Continued on page 5)



GRIEF: A father sits at the grave of his daughter on the anniversary of her death in the village of Shelli, located within the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azeri-controlled territory. The girl was killed one year ago in their house during a bombardment of the village (AFP photo)

Hamas rejects American proposal

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

AMMAN — The fundamentalist Palestinian Hamas movement said Sunday it had rejected a U.S.-brokered proposal aimed at luring Palestinians back to Middle East peace talks.

Although the Palestinian delegation to the talks is largely controlled by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the PLO and Hamas have been holding talks in an effort to bring their approaches closer together.

Mohammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, said a senior envoy to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat met with him Friday and discussed what he called "a six-point American compromise proposal."

He said Hamas has affirmed to the PLO envoy, Mamdouh Nofal, that the group insisted on the immediate repatriation of nearly 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel Dec. 17.

"We have rejected the American proposal simply because it did not meet our demand for the swift return of all the Palestinian deportees," Mr. Nazzal told the Associated Press.

Hamas, which has considerable influence among the Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, opposes peace negotiations with Israel.

The fundamentalist group competes with the PLO over Palestinian representation and many of the evictees are believed to be

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Israel tests its U.S.-funded Arrow missile

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel test-fired its Arrow anti-missile system for the fifth time Sunday, the defence ministry said. Government officials said it was a success. Israel's army radio said it was the first time the Arrow's ability to intercept another missile was evaluated. The missile is being developed in Israel as part of the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative, or "Star Wars" programme. Washington has pledged more than \$300 million for the project. The Arrow is designed to intercept and destroy incoming ground-to-ground missiles. Israel has said the system is more sophisticated and accurate than the U.S.-made Patriot missiles, which were deployed here and in the Gulf to combat Scuds during the war. Government officials have said the Arrow system could be deployed in Israel as early as 1995 or 1996. Government officials, who insisted on anonymity, confirmed the Arrow was fired from a ship in the Mediterranean at about 1 p.m. (1100 GMT). The test was twice put off last week for technical reasons or the weather. "We believe we've had a successful flight," said one official, who insisted on anonymity.

Mubarak aide, Rabin discuss peace process

TEL AVIV (AP) — Osama Al Baz, the top political adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, made a surprise visit to Israel Sunday to discuss the peace process and Palestinian expellees.

Dr. Baz met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and delivered a message from Mr. Mubarak, who has been trying to solve the crisis over the Palestinians' refusal to return to peace talks until the 400 expellees are returned.

Israel Radio said Dr. Baz also was exploring the possibility of arranging a Rabin-Mubarak summit. Two officials in Mr. Rabin's office, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the idea did not come up in Mr. Rabin's hour-long meeting with Dr. Baz.

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Mubarak met in Cairo shortly after Mr. Rabin took office in July. Dr. Baz told reporters after the meeting only that he "submitted a letter from the president about the regional peace talks." Earlier Egypt's government-owned Middle East News Agency quoted him as saying his talks would focus on the expulsions.

"This quick visit comes in line with Egypt's continuous efforts to reach a solution for the Palestinian expellees and resume peace negotiations at their set date in April," Dr. Baz said.

A statement from Mr. Rabin's office said the two discussed renewing the peace process, U.S. Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher's visit to the region last week and regional problems. Israel Television said Dr. Baz's visit was part of an effort to produce a stronger statement from Israel that it would not again expel Palestinians.

Dr. Baz discussed renewing the multilateral phase of the talks with Mr. Peres' deputy, Yossi Beilin, the statement said. Dr. Baz supported convening the steering committee for the multilateral talks before the bilateral talks resume in April, it said.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, who attended Sunday's cabinet briefing on the Christopher visit, said that as far as the Israeli government was concerned, the expellee crisis was over.

"Something extraordinary has to happen for the timetable not to stand as is," Mr. Sarid said, referring to the projected April renewal. "All the sides have agreed to return to the negotiating table" except the Palestinians, Mr. Sarid.

Gazan succumbs to gunshot injuries

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian who was shot and wounded by Israeli soldiers Thursday died of his injuries Sunday, Palestinian reports said.

The reports said Haidar Kreif, 24, a construction worker, was shot in the head when Israeli forces clashed with three Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip. Palestinians killed five fellow Arabs in the Gaza Strip this weekend, at least three accused of collaborating with the Israeli authorities, Arab reports said.

In Gaza City, masked men shot to death housewife Yusra Salameh, 25, and butcher Hani Abu Karayia, 26. Graffiti signed by enforcers in Fatah claimed the two had confessed to being informers.

A slogan signed by the fun-

damentalist Hamas movement claimed Friday's killing of Gaza City taxi driver Nasser Mifleh, 32, for "collaborating with the enemy," the reports added.

Palestinian leaders have repeatedly called on activists to halt increasingly violent killings of suspected informants.

Also Saturday, masked men shot and killed Aziz Warda, 40, from Gaza City, and Kamel Al Akhras, 30, of the Mughazi refugee camp died of gunshot wounds from an attack by masked men earlier in the week, Arab sources said.

Both Warda and Al Akhras were day labourers in Israel, and could have been suspected as collaborating with Israeli authorities. However, the group has taken responsibility for their deaths.

The army confirmed four of the deaths, and was checking that of Akhras.

Budget to be made public

Israel will publish a separate budget for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for the first time in 15 years, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Saturday.

"The budget for the territories is no longer a secret," Obed Ben Ami told the Associated Press.

The U.S. has said in the past that previous Israeli right-wing governments have fudged spending in the occupied territories in order to cover up the use of

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U.S. planes poised for Bosnia airdrops

FRANKFURT (Agencies) — U.S. military planes due to drop food and medicine over Bosnia stood ready Sunday for take-off orders after scattering leaflets over the war-torn region announcing emergency aid was on its way.

Spokesmen at the U.S. Rhein-Main Airbase in Frankfurt declined to divulge if or when the C-130 Hercules transport planes — expected to fly any day now — that the warning leaflets have been distributed — would take off Sunday evening.

Two camouflaged transporters spearheading the airdrop made four sweeps without lights Saturday evening to drop warning leaflets over a wide area of isolated eastern Bosnia cut off by fighting between Muslims and Serbs.

Like those flights, the slow-flying planes carrying crates with 704 kilograms of military

ready-to-eat meals will cruise at 3,000 metres or higher to avoid any rockets or heat-seeking missiles.

Military officials said there were 90 crates of food and six lighter ones with medical supplies to be parachuted into the snowy Bosnian mountains. Each cargo plane carry up to 16 of the specially-packed crates.

There have been no reports so far that the leaflets written in both Cyrillic lettered Serbian and Latin-script Croatian, have been sighted on the ground.

"I have not seen any," German photographer Philipp von Recklinghausen said from the besieged Muslim community of Srebrenica over an amateur radio link with Germany.

"I would know if any leaflets were found."

But Serb forces in the Sarajevo

area reported that two unidentified transport planes were spotted during the night flying at high altitude from the direction of the Muslim-held town of Gorazde towards Split on the Adriatic coast.

The leaflets, printed against a backdrop of the American flag and a C-130 dropping aid packages, warned people not to shoot at the planes and to stay clear of the falling parcels.

"Danger for your own safety, let the humanitarian aid land before you approach," the leaflets warned.

"American planes will provide humanitarian aid to all people by air. Do not shoot at American airplanes. The food and medicine are intended for all."

The two planes flew at 4,600

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Saddam ready for 'new era' in regional, international relations

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein stands ready to open a "new era" in external relations based on mutual confidence and stability in the Middle East, former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said Sunday.

The Iraqi leadership "is willing to live up to the pledge that Kuwait is a closed chapter," said Mr. Ortega, who returned to Amman Saturday after talks with President Saddam in Baghdad Thursday.

"They are ready to open a new era in relations based on mutual confidence and regional security and stability," he said. "It is the time other regional leaders took a new look at the entire situation in the post-Gulf war period and

realise that their interests would be better protected in an atmosphere of accommodation and free dialogue."

The Nicaraguan leader also called for "an immediate relaxation" of the international sanctions imposed against Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"Iraq has exerted considerable efforts and has gone a long way in implementing the U.N. resolutions" related to the Gulf crisis and the terms of the ceasefire following the liberation of Kuwait in February 1991 by an American-led Western-Arab coalition.

If no relaxation of the sanctions is offered and the Iraqi people continue to suffer, then chances of lessening tension in the region would remain elusive, he warned.

Mr. Ortega said President

Saddam and other Iraqi leaders told him that Baghdad was ready to "wipe the slate clean." As a first step, he said, Iraq was ready to offer all details it had in relation to Kuwaiti contentions that more than 800 Kuwaiti nationals remain in Iraqi detention.

Mr. Ortega said he was requested by the Arab League to broach the issue of alleged Kuwaiti detainees in Iraq during his talks in Baghdad and the Iraqi offer came in response.

The Sandinista leader declined to say whether the Iraqi leaders were denying or confirming that Kuwaitis were under Iraqi detention. But, he quoted Iraqi officials as saying that "some of the people whose names were in a list provided by the Arab League to Iraq are actually in Kuwait."

Mr. Ortega said the leaders of the Arab Gulf states who remain at odds with President Saddam would be ill-advised not to take the Iraqi posture for open dialogue and reconciliation seriously and not to "accept the reality that whether they like it or not the government of Saddam Hussein is there to stay in Baghdad just as Iraq is ready to accept the reality of the government of the Al Sabahs in Kuwait and others elsewhere in the region."

The alternative is, he said, "negative elements being added to the region every day, heightening tension and making it more and more difficult for a realignment of forces to serve the interests of the people of the region."

Mr. Ortega said there was heavy resentment in Iraq over

of conflict rather than settling the (pre-crisis Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute)," he said, referring to one of the reasons cited by Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Mr. Ortega rejected the Gulf states' obvious confidence that their American and European allies would rush to their help if they were threatened. "The stability and security" that the Gulf states believe they enjoy today is superficial," Mr. Ortega said in Spanish in an interview with the Jordan Times. His comments were translated by his wife.

"They are now getting the oxygen from the U.S. and Europe," Mr. Ortega said, referring to the defence treaties and agreements that the Gulf states have signed with Washington, London and Paris. "They have to get oxygen

from their own people and from the region. Only then they could hope for survival."

Mr. Ortega, leader of the Marxist-oriented Sandinista movement in Nicaragua and an idol for revolutionary groups around the world, cited the collapse of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe as a classic example from which the Gulf states should learn their lessons.

"There is no system in the world today which is foolproof to collapse and the Gulf states should be the first to realise that," said Mr. Ortega, who left for Rome shortly after the interview.

"Mutual confidence leading to stability of the countries of the region has to stem from the players of the region," he said.

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Budget

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Mystery deepens over Cairo cafe bomb

CAIRO (R) — The mystery of who bombed a Cairo cafe, the worst act of political violence in the city for years, deepened after Muslim militants who were the obvious suspects denied responsibility.

The bomb killed four people — two Egyptians, a Turk and a Swede — when it ripped through a crowd of foreigners and Egyptians drinking tea and coffee and smoking water pipes in the cafe Friday night.

The deliberate targeting of innocent people, the size of the bomb and the location in central Cairo's biggest square all made this markedly different from past attacks by militants fighting to turn Egypt into a purist Islamic state.

Al Gama'a Al Islamiya (Islamic Group), whose attacks on foreigners in the past five months have devastated Egypt's tourist industry, faxed and telephoned news organisations Saturday evening to say it had nothing to

do with the bomb.

"The Gama'a has carried out about 20 operations targeting the tourist industry and the casualties among the tourists themselves were negligible, in accordance with our policy of 'tourism not tourists'," the statement said.

It added: "Innocent Egyptian or foreign citizens are not and will never be the Gama'a's target, in contrast to what happened in this operation where Egyptians and foreigners were killed and injured."

The Gama'a shot dead a British woman in a bus ambush last October and injured five Germans in a similar attack in November, aiming to undermine the government by damaging the tourism which earns Egypt much of its foreign currency.

Its attacks since then, mostly shooting at tourist buses or throwing small home-made bombs at them, have apparently been designed to win publicity

without causing casualties.

The Egyptian Interior Ministry implied that Muslim militants were responsible.

A deputy minister, General Adel Bahaaeddin, told the national Middle East News Agency that the cafe bomb had contained small nails of a type found in devices used against police in Imbaba, a Cairo slum which is one of the Gama'a's main hide-outs.

"This indicates that the same terrorists were behind the cafe incident," he said.

Security forces have launched massive operations against the Gama'a since the British woman was killed, detaining hundreds of people under emergency laws. Thousands of troops swept through Imbaba in December.

The government has tried to clamp down on Muslim fundamentalism in schools, professional organisations and the media.

The Education Ministry is acting against teachers who force girls to veil their heads, parliament has rushed through a law making it harder for fundamentalists to win control of syndicates and discussion programmes on a religious radio station have been cut back.

Egypt's liberal intellectuals, many of whom avoid the world of politics because they believe it is stained by autocracy and patronage, has also begun to stand up for its values.

One of the country's most distinguished economists, said Al Naggar, launched a pressure group this month calling for faster economic reforms and greater democracy.

Police are questioning the families of the Egyptians killed or injured in the bomb attack because of suspicions that one of them could have planted the device, security sources said Sunday.

Fahd orders release of prisoners

JIDDAH (AP) — Marking the Holy Month of Ramadan, King Fahd has freed an unspecified number of prisoners who owed debts, according to an order published Sunday. He also ordered the government to settle their debts.

According to a report in the Saudi dailies Al Madinah and English-language Arab News, the royal amnesty covered insolvent prisoners, from around the kingdom both Saudis and foreigners.

No numbers were given. The decree said those amnestied included those sent to prison for not being able to pay dia, or "blood money." Under the kingdom's Islamic law, those convicted of murder may pay money to the family instead of suffering the usual penalty — execution.

It is tradition for rulers in Islamic countries to issue amnesties during Ramadan. Usually the amnesties cover prisoners who have served a good part of their terms or who have good records, especially those who spent time learning the Koran.

Islamic law, also makes it possible for benefactors, sometimes anonymous, to offer to settle public and private debts of prisoners as an act of charity during the holy month.

It is a charitable organisation that seeks to assist insolvent prisoners by paying off their debts from donations made by individuals and establishments, Arab News said.

The committee collected 5.43 million riyals (\$1.4 million) for the purpose, it said. In 1991 it settled more than 12 million riyals (\$3.2 million) of such debts, helping free 205 prisoners.

Mr. Clerides added that this effort "does not entail deviation from the present peaceful negotiating procedure under the auspices of the United Nations, through the good offices of the secretary-general."

But he reiterated his electoral pledge to work for the amendment of a "set of ideas" proposed by Secretary-General Boutros Ghali for the reunification of the island in a two-zone federation.

"Our effort will be to persuade him to reformulate the provisions of his set of ideas, which today directly, or indirectly block our way towards Europe."

Mr. Clerides, 73, a veteran rightwing leader, won a razor thin majority in the Feb. 14 election over independent incumbent George Vassiliou, who had helped draw up the U.N. proposals.



An American Marine watches over supporters of rebel leader General Mohammad Siad Hersi "Morga" taken into custody in the southern Somali port city of Kismayo after surrendering to U.S. forces after a week of fighting with a rival group (AFP photo)

Somalis agree on agenda for talks

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Despite recent clan fighting, rival factions still plan a new peace conference March 15 and have agreed on an agenda and participation by a wide range of groups, a U.N. spokesman said Sunday.

The so-called ad hoc committee representing the 14 factions reached agreement Saturday despite being interrupted by two days of unrest in Mogadishu sparked by the fighting in the southern port of Kismayo.

The conference on national reconciliation in Somalia, to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, will follow talks that broke down in January after clan fighting.

Somalia has been without a government since dictator Mohammed Siad Barre was ousted in January 1991. U.S. led forces, arrived in December to prevent clan fighting and fight famine, both of which have killed

hundreds of thousands.

One faction, the Somali National Alliance (SNA) backing warlord Mohammad Farrah Aided, expressed reservations about who should participate in the conference and whether it should be led by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, as planned.

But U.N. spokesman Farouk Mawlawi said there was no indication the SNA would pull out of the talks.

"The atmosphere of the meeting more or less indicated that they wanted to attend the conference," he told reporters.

Three of the factions are allied with Gen. Aided, while 11 factions are tied to his chief rival, Ali Mahdi Muhammad, the self-appointed president of Somalia.

The ad hoc committee adopted a draft report and 16-point agenda, which includes establishing a transitional authority and police

force, a transitional constitution, regional autonomy and reconstruction.

Also to be discussed are human rights, humanitarian assistance and resettlement of refugees.

Analysts said the factions would still face difficulties in trying to bury clan squabbles and rebuild a country destroyed by personal feuds.

They singled out Gen. Aided as the principle obstacle to peace. From his stronghold in south Mogadishu, Gen. Aided leads militias of his own Habre Gedir clan and is better armed than his rivals.

Gunbattles followed violent street protests Tuesday and Wednesday by Aided supporters after he accused U.S. troops of favouring a rival militia.

At Saturday's meeting his representatives expressed reservations about who should participate and chair the talks.

Clerides sets EC entry as top priority for Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) — Incoming President Glafcos Clerides said in his inaugural address Sunday he would make joining the European Community (EC) a top priority in his administration.

Addressing the House of Representatives after he was officially sworn in as Cyprus' fourth president since independence from Britain in 1960, Mr. Clerides said only EC entry would dispel mistrust between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities.

It would also pave the way for reunification of the island, disrupted since the 1974 Turkish invasion, he said.

Hundreds of people drove past the pine-walled presidential palace, honking their car horns after watching the ceremony live on television. The gates were then flung open to wellwishers who flooded the palace to shake

hands with the new president.

Greek Cypriots believe that entry into the EC would help achieve basic human rights such as freedom of movement and the principle of ownership of Greek Cypriot property in northern Cyprus by its original owners.

Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash has rejected full freedom of movement and settlement under a proposed two-zone federal Cyprus.

Some 300,000 Greek Cypriots were driven from their homes following the 1974 Turkish invasion, which followed an abortive coup by Athens-backed supporters of union with Greece. Some 40,000 Turkish Cypriots also moved from southern to northern Cyprus.

The European Commission is currently studying Cyprus' application to join the EC. But

several EC members have voiced reservations to a Cyprus membership unless the island is first reunited.

Mr. Denkash has virulently objected to the application by the internationally recognised Greek Cypriot government, saying that government is not representative of the whole island.

"We shall make every effort to convince the European Community that our course towards Europe will facilitate the initiative to find a solution of the Cyprus problem," Clerides said.

"If Europe wishes to assist in finding a solution, it should help us by expressing readiness to accept Cyprus in its bosom," he said.

"For this reason we shall give priority to activities aimed at promoting our entry to the EC," he said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Yemen calls for post-war reconciliation

SANAA (R) — Yemen called Saturday for post-Gulf war Arab reconciliation after receiving a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh stressed the importance of the success of Arab efforts "to forget the past and clear the Arab atmosphere," Sanaa Radio reported. He made the remarks after receiving President Saddam's message which was delivered by the half brother of the Iraqi leader, newly appointed presidential adviser Barazan Ibrahim Al Tikriti. The radio said President Saddam explained in his message the suffering of the Iraqi people caused by the United Nations' insistence to continue to impose sanctions on Iraq "despite its adherence" to Gulf war-related Security Council resolutions. Mr. Saleh voiced his country's "solidarity" with the Iraqi people and called for establishing new basis for Arab-Arab relations. Yemen, one of the region's poorest states, appeared to side with Iraq when it invaded Kuwait in 1990, costing it vital generous financial aid from oil-rich Gulf Arab states.

Moroccan journalist banned from going abroad

RABAT (R) — Moroccan magazine publisher Ahmad Al Kohen said he was stopped by security agents Saturday from flying to Paris to join his French wife. Mr. Kohen, editor and publisher of the independent French language monthly Al Assas, said he was given no explanation for the ban. He said he had been barred from leaving Morocco since 1979 when Al Assas published an editorial hinting that the army treasonably failed to protect the southern town of Tan-Tan from a bloody attack by Polisario guerrillas. Polisario is fighting for independence for the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara. Mr. Kohen said he was jailed for three months without legal proceedings after the article appeared. "The Moroccan authorities have not allowed me to leave the country for the last 14 years. I have written hundreds of letters to the ministries of the interior, justice and information concerning my case, but they have all gone unanswered," he told Reuters.

World Bank giving Sudan \$700,000 for privatisation

KHARTOUM (R) — The World Bank is to give Sudan \$700,000 to support its privatisation programme, a Khartoum newspaper said Sunday. The English-language daily New Horizon reported that the bank and the Sudanese government signed an agreement recently under which Sudan will receive the money. It quoted Industry Minister Taj Al Sir Mustafa as saying the government was still negotiating with the bank over financing the overhaul of some institutions to be privatised and the retraining of staff. One of the government's main economic policies is the privatisation of unprofitable public corporations. Since the policy was introduced in 1990, 13 government-owned corporations have been sold off. Finance Minister Abdul Rahim Hamdi said recently 140 such companies still must be disposed of.

German tourists killed in Moroccan crash

RABAT (R) — Four German women tourists and the driver were killed when their bus collided with a truck and overturned on the main Rabat-Tangier highway, a German embassy spokesman said Sunday. The German bus carrying 44 passengers from eastern Germany, two drivers and a Moroccan guide hit an oncoming truck overtaking another truck in a no passing zone Thursday. The truck driver escaped unscathed and was arrested, a Moroccan security source said. The crash happened 70 kilometres north of Rabat as the bus was taking the Germans home after a holiday in south Morocco. The spokesman said all the passengers were injured but only seven were hospitalised and they were due to be released Sunday. "It was a miracle that there were no more fatalities. Many of the passengers were thrown out of the windows when the bus turned over, and some were pinned underneath it," he said.

Ethiopia releases 400 political prisoners

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia's transitional government released on bail 400 political prisoners Saturday. They included former government ministers held for 19 months without trial. The official Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) said those freed included five ministers and four generals under the government of Mengistu Haile Mariam, the dictator overthrown by rebels in May 1991. It named the cabinet members as Gizaw Tesfay, former minister of health, Yayehyriad Kitaw (education), Tekeze-Shoa Aytensifu (mines and energy) and Tadeos Harege-Work (industry) and Tadesse Kidane-Mariam (urban development). A former university president and vice-president were also set free pending further investigation, ENA said. All those freed were high-ranking members of the Workers Party of Ethiopia, a Soviet-style party. Colonel Mengistu set up to exercise what he called "proletarian democracy." The release of the 400 follows a series of court appearances by several of 2,000 former government officials who surrendered after the rebels took power and who have been held without trial since. Defence lawyers have issued writs of habeas corpus on behalf of some of those held. They have accused the government of failing to build cases against their clients despite having almost two years to do so. Twenty-three high-ranking officials appeared in court Friday, including a former prime minister and vice-president. They were remanded in custody for two weeks.

Turkey: Cypriot elections bring no change

ISTANBUL (R) — The election of Glafcos Clerides to the presidency of Cyprus is unlikely to bring changes in Greek Cypriot policy over the divided island, a senior Turkish minister said Saturday. "There are no differences between the views of (President-elect) Clerides and (outgoing President) George Vassiliou. Only the actors have changed," Orhan Kileroglu, state minister for Cyprus affairs, said during a panel discussion on Cyprus. "The fundamental issue at stake is Enosis (unification of Cyprus with Greece) and Hellenism. In 1974, Greek expansionism was stopped. Today the Greeks want to go beyond," he added. Cyprus has been divided since Turkish troops occupied the northern two-fifths in 1974 after a coup inspired by the Greek junta then ruling Athens. Turkey maintains 30,000 troops in the north of the island whose Turkish Cypriot state is recognised only by Ankara.

Rocket barrage claims dozens in Afghan capital

KABUL (AP) — After two weeks of relative calm, rockets terrorised the Afghan capital Sunday, slamming into a crowded marketplace, a mosque and an apartment complex. Witnesses said at least 31 people were killed and more than 60 others wounded.

The government blamed the attacks on Hezb-e-Islami, a dissident rebel faction, but its leader denied responsibility.

Two missiles crashed into Fushigan market Sunday morning, spraying burning shrapnel and forcing scores of screaming customers to scamp for cover. Blood covered the ground, mixed with vegetables, dried fruit and overturned stands. Witnesses said at least 14 people were killed.

An hour later, a rocket crashed into Pul-e-Kheshti, the city's main mosque, where small children were carrying water for prayers. Witnesses said at least five children were killed.

A rocket also exploded in the courtyard of a huge apartment complex in eastern Kabul, killing at least 10 children and two women, including one who was pregnant, residents said.

Around the city, private cars and taxis, some flying a white flag, ferried the wounded to hospitals. Moaning patients filled the corridors and sobbing women searched for relatives.

Angry residents took to the streets and shouted "death to the government" for its failure to end attacks by rebels in the snow-covered hills around Kabul. Government soldiers fired into the air to the palace of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, but they kept marching.

"Please tell the United Nations, tell America to save us," the demonstrators pleaded.

Since Muslim rebels overran the capital and replaced the communist rulers last April, Kabul has been under siege of rockets; fired by Hezb-e-Islami and its allies. Tens of thousands of people have been killed or wounded, and nearly one third of the city's 1.5 million people have been forced from their homes.

For nearly two hours, the dooms of artillery echoed through the city, rattling doors and windows, as the government struck Hezb-e-Islami bases.

But the group's firebrand leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, denied that his forces had attacked. "The people of Kabul know that Hezb-e-Islami is not rocketing the city," Mr. Hekmatyar told the Associated Press from his base 25 kilometres south of Kabul.

Government forces also battled Mr. Hekmatyar's ally of convenience, the Iranian-backed coalition Hezb-e-Wahdat, in the largely deserted suburbs of western Kabul.

Hezb-e-Wahdat, which pulled out of the Islamic government to press its demands for greater representation of Afghanistan's minority Shiites, tried to overrun posts captured by the government two weeks ago. Defence Ministry spokesman Mohammad Yunis Qanooni accused Tehran of encouraging militants within Hezb-e-Wahdat.

Government tanks pounded the Polytechnic Institute, the devastated and abandoned neighbourhood of Afshar and the Silo, the main bakery that once provided bread for the city's poor.

Defence ministry sources claimed that Hezb-e-Wahdat suffered heavy casualties but gave no details.

Israeli helicopter attack kills Lebanese civilian

RASHAYA, Lebanon (Agencies) — An Israeli helicopter rocketed a civilian van in South Lebanon on Sunday, killing its driver shortly after a clash between guerrillas and Israeli forces, security sources said.

A single rocket from the helicopter hit the Volkswagen van between Zillayla and Qilya villages, just outside Israel's "security zone" in the south and where guerrillas are active.

The driver, Ali Akl, was killed and a passenger was badly wounded, the sources said, adding the helicopter apparently mistook the van for a guerrilla vehicle. Another helicopter was at the scene but did not fire. The attack took place shortly after guerrillas attacked an Israeli position in the Dalfefeh hills inside the zone and just south of Qilya and Zillayla. The Israelis opened up with anti-tank rockets and machineguns and fired dozens of shells at hills near Zillayla. No one was hurt in the clash.

Earlier Sunday, guerrillas attacked a hilltop Kadar position for Israeli's militia allies, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), with anti-tank rockets and machineguns. The SLA replied by firing 20 shells around four villages on the Hizbollah-held Iqlim Al Tounah mountain ridge.

Guerrillas fired more than 24 rockets at northern Israel Saturday as artillery and rocket duels raged between Hizbollah guerrillas and Israeli and SLA forces in the zone.

Iraq in new attacks against marsh Shiites — Observer

LONDON (AP) — Iraqi troops have begun a new campaign against the Shiites of Iraq's southern marshes, shelling their villages and poisoning their water, the Observer reported Sunday.

"Hundreds of men, women and children have been slaughtered since the start of the year, many the victims of close range artillery bombardment," wrote reporter Shyam Dhatia, who recently spent 10 days with Shiite fighters.

The southern marshes are very difficult to reach, and foreign journalists are barred from the region except on government-conducted tours. The account by Mr. Dhatia, who was smuggled into the area by the rebels, is the first detailed independent report in months.

Mr. Dhatia wrote that "huge swaths of reed beds have been torched black by the relentless attacks."

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) television Saturday showed footage, filmed by Mr. Dhatia, of blackened reed beds and devastated, deserted villages.

It showed young children wounded in what it said were regular artillery attacks.

"Artillery units are steadily pushing further south, in direct contravention of U.N. demands to stop massacring (its) own people," Mr. Dhatia wrote in the weekly newspaper.

U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Gulf war ceasefire demanded Iraq end repression of the Shiites in the south and the Kurds in the north.

About 10,000 Shiite rebels and hundreds of thousands of civilians live on floating islands in the nearly inaccessible southern marshes region.

About 55 per cent of Iraq's 17.5 million people are Shiites.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
25.00	Empire
19.00	News in French
19.15	Magazine Sport
19.30	News in Hebrew
20.00	News in Arabic
20.30	Step by Step
21.00	Marlin Bay
22.00	News in English
22.30	Jordan Weekly
23.00	Vietnam
PRAYER TIMES	
04.45	Fajr
06.45	Sunrise/Duha
11.45	Dhuhr
15.04	Asr
17.30	Maghrib
18.52	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Marys of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel. 657561	
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 657561	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 625890	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 657561	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzavanta Church Tel. 625890	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625841	
Anglican Church Tel. 652826	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assuan International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824525	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623524, 659932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
It will be partly cloudy and warm, while winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman 22, Aqaba 24 Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 65 per cent.	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 22, Aqaba 24	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Rafeh Zeinoun	888685
Dr. Nidal Al Dabab	827195
Dr. Mohammad Al Ajam	894184
Dr. Khalil Al Jabali	740740
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fendous pharmacy	778536
Al Assma pharmacy	437055
Nairook pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Shmuchi pharmacy	637660
Tacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmuchi pharmacy	637660
Nairook pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
REBID:	
Dr. Jaouad Ahmad	245688
Alquds pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Rafeh Atallah	984424
Khalifah pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Rescue Police	621111, 637777
Civil Defence Department	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Fire Brigade	192, 621111, 637777
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	843402
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Telephone	771111
Radio Jordan	774111
HOSPITALS	
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Quoc An Intl. Airport	08-53200
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Al-Helwa Maternity, J. Amn	64441/2
Label Amman Maternity	642362
Malhar, J. Amman	636140
Palatine, Shmoussani	664171/4
Shmoussani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Musader Hospital	667221/8
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/57
Al-Abdi, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	77101/3
Al-Samir, J. Asstrafich	77111/26
Army, Marfa	891611/15
Quoc An Intl. Hospital	662240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
The Sin Hospital	(09)86722
Al-Hussein Modern Hospital	(09)99990

King, Crown Prince condole Karaki family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday evening visited the Karaki family in Karak governorate to condole them on the death of Suleiman Abdul Aziz Al Karaki.

King Hussein, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, was received by Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, the brother of the deceased, and heads of the Dmour and Gasasneh tribes.

Earlier in the day, His Majesty delegated His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben

Al Hussein to attend the funeral.

Also Sunday, the Crown Prince delegated the director of his office, Michel Hamarneh, to attend the funeral of Colonel Al Karaki, and to convey the Crown Prince's condolences to the Karaki family.

Suleiman Karaki, a colonel in the Armed Forces, was killed in a car accident Saturday night.

Prince Hassan also delegated Mohammad Odeh Nijadat to convey his condolences to the Farah and Uzzeizat families over the death of the Sameh Ishaq Al Farah.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Queen hosts Iftar at Raghadan

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday hosted an Iftar banquet at Raghadan Palace. The Iftar was attended by Their Royal Highnesses the Princesses, wives of statesmen and senior Royal Court Staff.

Scouts, guides collect donations in Ajloun

AJLOUN (Petra) — A total of 1,000 boy scouts and girl guides Monday will start collecting donations from citizens in Ajloun district as part of the Third Annual Charity Campaign which was launched in the Kingdom last week by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma. Ajloun District Governor Saad Al Wadi, who heads the charity committee in the district, said all necessary arrangements were taken to bring the campaign to a successful end.

Cabinet appoints 2 new municipality panel members

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet appointed Suleiman Arabiyat and Ahmad Al Qatameh as members of the Amman Municipality Committee. They will succeed Ismail Al Armouti and Mohammad Al Jamal who resigned from the committee recently.

Jordan celebrates world civil defence day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Monday celebrates International Civil Defence Day. On the occasion Civil Defence Department Director Maj. Gen. Afif Al Ghoul said the civil defence personnel will carry out several important duties, including the preparation of plans and cadres and training them in preparedness to cope with any emergency resulting from natural or man-made disasters like wars and civil strife. Maj. Gen. Ghoul stressed that the citizen's role is pivotal and that it constitutes one of the pillars of civil defence work. He pointed out that people's awareness can always contribute to minimizing the incidence of accidents and casualties.

Health ministry to open centre in Al Ramaliya

NORTH SHUNEH (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh decided Sunday to open a new health centre in Al Ramaliya village in the northern Jordan Valley. The centre will offer services to 4,000 citizens in the village and surrounding areas. Director of the district Health Department Mohammad Ali Ghazawi said the department is currently working to open the centre during March.

Two mosques to be built in Jordan Valley

NORTH SHUNEH (Petra) — The Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Department in the northern Jordan Valley district has commenced constructing two mosques in Al Balawneh and Sheikh Hussein areas. Department Director Amin Al Khanb said the cost of constructing the two mosques were contributed by the citizens who preferred to remain anonymous.

Residency and aliens department is new name

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Aliens and Borders at the Public Security Department (PSD) was renamed Residency and Aliens Department, according to a decision announced by PSD Chief Major General Fadel Ali Fheid Sunday. Major Fheid said the new name better suits the functions and services of this department.

Officials inspect Imreigha village

AMMAN (Petra) — The Maan governor and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) president Sunday paid a visit to Imreigha village in Maan governorate to inspect living conditions there and provide assistance. The delegation's visit to the southern village comes in response to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's request. Accompanying them were officials from the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS). The JNRCS and the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) had visited the village earlier and provided in-kind assistance to needy families. The delegation met with representatives of the cooperative society, teachers and girl guides and listened to briefings on their respective needs.

Radioactivity workshop opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A week-long workshop on "The Medical Management in Confronting Radioactive Incidents" opened Sunday at the Radioactivity and Nuclear Medicine Department of Al Bashir Hospital in Amman. The workshop which is organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in cooperation with the department and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral resources aims to spread awareness among workers in the field of radioactivity and issues related to first aid in any emergency situation.

Land reclamation workshop opens in Bani Hamida

MADABA (Petra) — A workshop on land reclamation in the Bani Hamida area in Dhiban district was held Sunday at the Bani Hamida Social Development Centre. The workshop, which was organised by the Madaba Social Development Department in cooperation with the Agricultural Credit Corporation, the district's Agriculture Department and Save the Children Fund, will focus on finding solutions to soil erosion and land reclamation on Bani Hamida Mountain.

Local author receives thanks from Prince Philip

AMMAN (J.T.) — Retired army officer and author Arslan Ramadan received a note of gratitude last week from Buckingham Palace in London for his book entitled "Birds of Jordan". The thanks were sent by Brian McGrath on behalf of the Duke of Edinburgh who is the President of the World Wildlife Fund. Mr. McGrath wrote "This book will be a most welcomed edition to His Royal Highness's library and your kind thought is much appreciated." Mr. Ramadan's work is a 212-page effort that features coloured photos of most of the over 340 species of birds found in Jordan.

Foreign students tour NHF facilities

AMMAN (Petra) — A 54-student delegation representing various nationalities Sunday visited Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), where they met with the NHF Communication Officer Sima Bahous, who briefed them on NHF's establishment and its overall philosophy.

Dr. Bahous told the visiting delegation that the Foundation seeks to improve the quality of life of individuals and communities by adopting creative models to serve local development needs.

The students, who are attending the University of Jordan's Programme in Arabic for Speakers of Other Languages toured the Jordanian Design and Marketing Centre, which was established in 1990 to revitalise national handicrafts through innovative designs derived from original Jordanian traditions and market these works via participation in international fairs.

The delegation also visited the Child Health and Development Centre, where they were briefed by its director on its programmes. The centre was established in 1986 in cooperation with the Swedish Redda Barnen Organisation, to promote the health of mothers and children and detect early childhood disabilities.

Jordan Radio celebrates 34th year

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Broadcasting Corporation (JBC) Monday celebrates its 34th anniversary. On March 1, 1959, His Majesty King Hussein opened JBC at Umm Al Hiran and delivered a speech on the occasion that served as the beacon which guided this Jordanian rostrum. JBC is a working member of the European States Broadcasting Union and a founding member of the Arab States Broadcasting Union. In the last two years JBC opened two local broadcasting stations: one serves Greater Amman and the other, in Irbid, serves the northern parts of Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jmal, Helen Khal, Suha Nour and Afaf Zuraik — at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

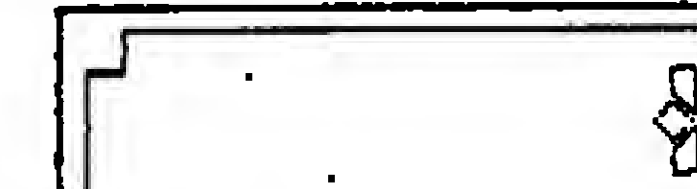
★ Poster exhibition entitled "The British Film Makers of the 80s" at the British Council.

FILM

★ French film entitled "Therese Raquin" at 8 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

Jordan Times

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Parliament issues newsletter

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Parliament Sunday released the first issue of its bimonthly magazine "The Parliament's Newsletter."

The issue includes articles on the Parliament's mandate, accountability of Parliament members, His Majesty King Hussein's Speech from the Throne, inaugurating the Fourth Ordinary Session on Dec. 1 and replies of the Upper and Lower House to the Speech.

Also covered in the magazine are Parliament's achievements in its three sessions, as well as the extraordinary sessions, Jordan's democratic process, and the Jordanian National Charter.

Meanwhile, the Lower House was unable to hold its meeting Sunday morning because of the lack of a quorum.

Only 49 deputies of the 80-seat House were present. House sessions require the presence of two-thirds of House members.

The House Education Committee will meet Monday to discuss working papers on population, education, keeping periodicals and journals at educational institutions and preparing education plans for the coming century.

The Senate Education Committee met Sunday and discussed the Temporary Handicapped Welfare Law.

House receives cable from Pakistani senate

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Pakistani senate sent a cable to Jordan's Lower House of Parliament strongly condemning Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to southern Lebanon.

It is extremely shocking that the expellees are living in sub-human conditions trapped between the Israeli-Lebanese borders and freezing in below zero temperatures, the cable said.

In its statement, the Pakistani senate said the expellees lack food, water and adequate clothing and are denied by the Israeli government even the basic humanitarian aid offered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

This action, said the statement, is a blatant violation of the Security Council resolution of December 18, 1992 which termed the expulsion of civilians from occupied lands as a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

The cable said the expulsion was another atrocity committed by the Israeli government at a time when the United States was

holding the "so-called peace parity" on the Palestinian issue.

It said the (Pakistani) senate strongly condemned this brutal action and urged the United Nations to look into this latest Israeli act of cruelty and also to resolve the long standing Palestinian dispute in accordance with U.N. resolutions.

Meanwhile the Lower House released the text of a message sent by the expellees thanking the Jordanian Parliament for its continued support for their cause and expressing hope that other Arab parliaments would follow the Jordanian example.

The message said the expellees intended to maintain their decision and their demand for full implementation of U.N. Resolution 799 which called for their immediate repatriation.

While condemning the U.S.-Israeli "deal", the expellees reaffirmed their decision to defy hunger and cold and stand firm in their demand to return to their homeland for which, they said, they can find no substitute anywhere else in the world.

Ministry to increase public's community role

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Amin Awad Mashaqbeh Sunday stressed the ministry's interest in combating poverty and providing aid to the needy and destitute families of Jordan.

Dr. Mashaqbeh said the National Aid Fund (NAF) until mid-1992 provided JD 5.5 million in recurrent aid to about 121,000 families and JD 24,000 in emergency cash assistance to 494 families.

He added that the NAF financed rehabilitation projects which benefited 2,400 families and provided assistance to physical rehabilitation projects covering 203 cases.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Masha-

qbeh said the ministry strives to enhance the role of the NAF by extending its services to greater numbers of needy people and increasing the ceiling of aid provided to such families and to related projects.

He said the ministry is also focusing on the development of human resources.

Dr. Mashaqbeh announced the ministry's plans to increase public participation in developing local communities, particularly the less privileged groups.

He added that the ministry is promoting the establishment of at least one voluntary society in each community and said it plans to establish further local community development centres and job-creating projects.

U.K. centre applauds Jordanian teacher

AMMAN (J.T.) — Last week the Jordan Times received a letter from the directors of the St. Mary's Co-operative Children's Centre in Sheffield, England praising the contributions of Amani Kurdi, a Jordanian school teacher who is on a 6-month cultural exchange programme at the centre.

Directors Anne D'Agnilla and Chrissy Mcleady wrote that Miss Kurdi has been involved in all areas of the centre's educational curriculum and has been "extremely successful in increasing children's, staff's and parent's knowledge of Jordanian life and the ways of Islam."

They said Miss Kurdi has also made a "vital contribution to numerous organizations related to children and has provided a positive role model for all who have worked or met (with) her."

St. Mary's Children's Centre has been privileged to work with Amani: she not only works directly with the children but she has been following intensive training programme, addressing all areas of the educational curri-

culum with a special emphasis on special needs education," the directors said.

Miss Kurdi will return to Jordan in June, the directors said, adding that "she will be greatly missed."

"She is an exceptional person who has a child-centred approach to all areas of her work and she is greatly loved by children, staff and parents here in Sheffield."

Miss Kurdi teaches at the Sanafer School in Amman.

Jordan commemorates Arabisation of army

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Monday observes the 37th anniversary of the Arabisation of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

On March 1, 1956, His Majesty King Hussein relieved John Bagot Glubb from his duties as commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces and the other foreign army commanders, and entrusted Jordanian officers with the command.

The move constituted an extremely important step in view of its timing as it came at a critical stage of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the dangers posed by the Israeli occupation of Palestine, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said in a commentary Sunday.

On the eve of the anniversary, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker issued a statement describing King Hussein's action in 1956 as a major national accomplishment constituting a turning point in the Arab Nation's struggle for liberation from foreign domination.

"It was a brave move on the part of King Hussein who proved keen on the interests of the nation and emphasised the fact that major achievements can only be accomplished by notable and responsible leaders," the prime minister said in a statement to

Petra.

He said King Hussein's decision to Arabise the Jordanian Armed Forces, placing their command under Jordanian officers, was a step towards placing Jordan on the path of its national responsibilities and marked the beginning of the Kingdom's assumption of its national role and responsibilities which it has since strongly upheld.

Since the Arabisation of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Jordan's responsibilities went beyond the Kingdom's boundaries as the Armed Forces have been assuming the role of peacekeepers under the umbrella of the United Nations, serving in Europe, Asia and Africa, the prime minister said. He added that this service reflects the country's readiness to respond to the call of duty and demonstrates its ability and that of its Armed Forces.

Sharif Zeid said the King's decision also opened the way for numerous decisions in other Arab countries which were struggling to achieve liberation and end foreign hegemony.

Petra said King Hussein's 1956 decision reflected his resolve to build a strong army capable of defending the homeland and

serving the Arab Nation's interests.

On the eve of the anniversary, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb voiced the Armed Forces' pride in King Hussein's leadership. In a cable to the King Sunday, Field Marshal Abu Taleb expressed good wishes and pledged the Armed Forces renewed allegiance to His Majesty.

Public Security Department Director Major-General Fadel Ali Fheid also sent a congratulatory cable Sunday to the King saying the King's historic decision to Arabise the Hashemite Army will which has never accepted to see the Arab Jordanian Army led by anybody else, except its honourable citizens. Maj.-Gen. Fheid congratulated the King in his own name and on behalf of the PSD personnel, wishing him continued good health and happiness and success in leading Jordan's march.

Director of the General Intelligence Department Mustafa Al Qaisi congratulated the King in his name and in the name of the department personnel on this commemoration in a cable.

Australia to purchase more potash

AMMAN (Petra) — Australia has agreed to purchase additional amounts of Jordanian phosphate and potash, according to Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour.

Dr. Ensour, who returned Sunday from meetings of the joint Jordanian-Australian Committee in Canberra last week said the agreement to increase purchases came in light of Australia's growing needs for both commodities in its fertilizer industries, but he gave no details about the amounts which will be bought.

He said Australian team expressed interest in studying the Jordanian market's needs for live sheep and frozen meat. Jordan regularly buys Australian sheep and meat and has been exporting

phosphate to Australia for several years.

The two sides also expressed interest in launching joint economic ventures, especially in the dairy industry and in agriculture, as well as in ensuring exports, the minister said. He added that both sides intend to devise a formula by which they can exchange expertise in higher education.

Australia and Jordan also plan to cooperate in maritime transport, and the Jordanian side expressed readiness to begin a direct sea route between Aqaba and Australia via Indonesia, Dr. Ensour said.

Before going to Australia, the minister, who led a team of Jordanian officials, stopped in Indonesia where he and the team

held discussions on trade and economic cooperation. According to Dr. Ensour the Jordanian and Indonesian sides talked of increasing the volume of exchange of goods and explored prospects for joint investment projects including Jordanian phosphate and potash.

The minister said he called on the Indonesian government to increase its imports of Jordanian phosphate and potash to help adjust the balance of trade between the two countries.

The talks in Indonesia resulted in an initial agreement to start joint ventures to manufacture pharmaceuticals and furniture through facilities offered at the Jordanian free zones, Dr. Ensour said.

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international
traders

ANNOUNCEMENT THE CENTRAL BANK OF JORDAN

RE: New coins in circulation

As of the 1st of March 1993, the Central Bank of Jordan will put into circulation new coins of the denominations (10 piastres), (5 piastres) and (2½ piastres), in conformity with the law of the Central Bank of Jordan and the Bylaw of the Issuance of Jordanian Currency No. (28) year 1992.

The new coins will circulate alongside the existing coins and both shall simultaneously remain in circulation as legal tender.

SPECIFICATIONS:-

Denomination	Alloy	Diameter	Thickness	Weight	Shape	Edge
10 Piastres	(Nickel Bonded Steel)	28 mm	1.5 mm	7 gm	Round	Serrated
5 Piastres	(Nickel Bonded Steel)	26 mm	1.3 mm	5 gm	Round	Serrated
2.5 Piastres	(Nickel Bonded Steel)	22 mm	1.1 mm	3 gm	Round	Serrated

The obverse of the new coins bear a new Effigy of His Majesty King Hussein encircled by the two phrases "Hussein Bin Talal", "The King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan", in Arabic.

The reverse incorporates the phrase "The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in English, the date of issue, the denomination in writing and figure in Arabic and in writing only in English.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. تأسست 1975.

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Active involvement pays

THE SIX-POINT deal reportedly being brokered by the U.S. to settle the crisis created by Israeli expulsion of 400 Palestinians to South Lebanon offers a sound basis for removing the remaining hurdle facing the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in April. More than that, the wordings of the six points and their contents provide an insight into what U.S. Secretary Warren Christopher has been promising the Arabs; active American involvement in the peace process or, as also being referred to, full partnership. There is apprehension on the Arab and Palestinian sides as to the real terms of active U.S. involvement.

If the U.S. is going to be able to force Israel to accept the six points as reported in the news yesterday, then what other demands the Americans would be able to force the Palestinians and the Arabs to accept? The Arabs are the party that always urged the U.S. to get itself fully engaged in the peace process. That was mostly during President George Bush's era. But now the situation has changed, many new factors were added, not least among them is President Bill Clinton's pre-election pledge "not to force Israel to accept what it is not ready to accept."

It is thus important to assess the American initiative in its proper perspective. While it helps both Israelis and Arabs to resume negotiations, it opens the door for active U.S. involvement which, in its first instance, sounds to be adequate and fair. The resumption of the talks themselves is significant. However, unless the rules for the talks are modified from time to time, the negotiations will get stagnated by modalities and frameworks. The new rules barring new expulsions provide for a more relaxed atmosphere on the Palestinian-Israeli "home" front that would provide the negotiations in Washington with the environment necessary for a meaningful and fruitful dialogue and talks. It is therefore of utmost benefit for the negotiations to get anywhere to change the situation on the ground in the West Bank and Gaza. That is where an Israeli pledge to improve the human rights situation in the occupied territories would ensure that the negotiations would continue uninterrupted. And notwithstanding Arab and Palestinian apprehension, active U.S. involvement would still provide the right mechanism for the wheel to continue rolling.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WE CAUTIOUSLY follow up news about a six-point plan being offered to the Israelis by the U.S. administration to pave the ground for a resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. At the same time, we are not comfortable with continued silence on the part of the Arab parties to the peace talks in response to the American plan, because we are afraid that the peace process resume soon without any solution for the expelled, and without the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, the paper said. The Arabs have always been accused of being pessimistic about the future. But this is justified simply in view of Israel's intransigent position on all fronts and due to Israel's continued disregard of the international legitimacy and U.N. resolutions, the paper continued. The Arabs have also been diplomatic most of the time, trying to reach a compromise over issues that stand in the way of attempts to reach a final settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper added. But the Arabs have now discovered that Israel is not seeking peace as it continues to disregard U.N. resolutions and make mockery of international legitimacy, the paper said. The paper said that the six-point plan deals with the implementation of U.N. resolutions and does not exclude the status of Jerusalem from the negotiations. Therefore, one can conclude that the Americans are currently discussing the question seriously with the Israelis and for that reason the U.S. is optimistic that the Arab parties will understand Washington's position and come to the negotiating table. What is important now, said the daily, is to see a positive Israeli response before any resumption of the peace process can take place.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily advocated the cause of Jordanian women who, he said, have had no chance yet to assume leading positions in the Jordanian society. Salah Abdul Samad said that there are no women in the judiciary and no women hold the post of secretary general at any ministry nor there are any women holding the post of director general of any public company in Jordan. It is indeed strange to see that this is happening at a time when the country is inclined to pursue the march of democracy at all levels. Many Jordanian women hold high qualifications and high university degrees, making them eligible for such posts, the writer said. He criticised the women's unions in Jordan for remaining passive against this situation and for failing to make efforts to meet the requirements of women in Jordan's society. Women can air their views through seminars, lectures and published statements and even through political parties in a bid to attain the status they aspire to and lift the injustice that has befallen their cause for so long, the writer said. He said that women's rights should be recognised by men in our society, which ought to open the door for women to exercise their right and perform their duty towards the country and its future.

Weekly Political Pulse

Government should break its silence

THERE are a good many domestic and international issues on which one doesn't know where the government stands. Some of the newer ones that surfaced lately touch upon education and the segregation of boys from girls starting from the age of 10 as well as separating the sexes in public swimming pools. The central government has opted to keep its cool on such hot topics by reminding the people that it is after all a rainbow sort of government encompassing a coalition of interests, political parties and schools of thought.

This may be correct. But the public still awaits guidance on these and other subjects that directly or indirectly affect their lives. No one can suggest that the government is colourless or tasteless to the extent that it does not have its own perspectives in shape on a whole range of local and external policies. The Prime Minister, Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, is known for his highly opinionated views on practically all pressing issues. He is also known to prefer working behind the scenes. The Cabinet members are by and large outspoken on how the government should deal with several domestic and international flash points.

There is no vacuum of leadership by any stretch of the imagination. What is possibly missing in the system is a well organised institution that may articulate the government's orientation and position on all topics that the people can relate to. In this sense, there is a communication crisis between the central government and the people that requires early rectification, especially in these trying times when the country is in the midst of a peace process and is preparing itself for the next round of parliamentary elections.

These days are no time for a low profile government. Jordanians want to formulate their choices in the most enlightened way, be that on the issues of war and peace in the Middle East or on where and how to swim not only in public pools but also at public beaches in Aqaba.

On the peace process, there is considerable vagueness as to where the government stands on its development and progress. When the Jordanian negotiation team succeeded in achieving a

breakthrough by agreeing on an agenda with their Israeli counterparts, the government turned apologetic about its success and in the process confused international observers and Jordanians alike.

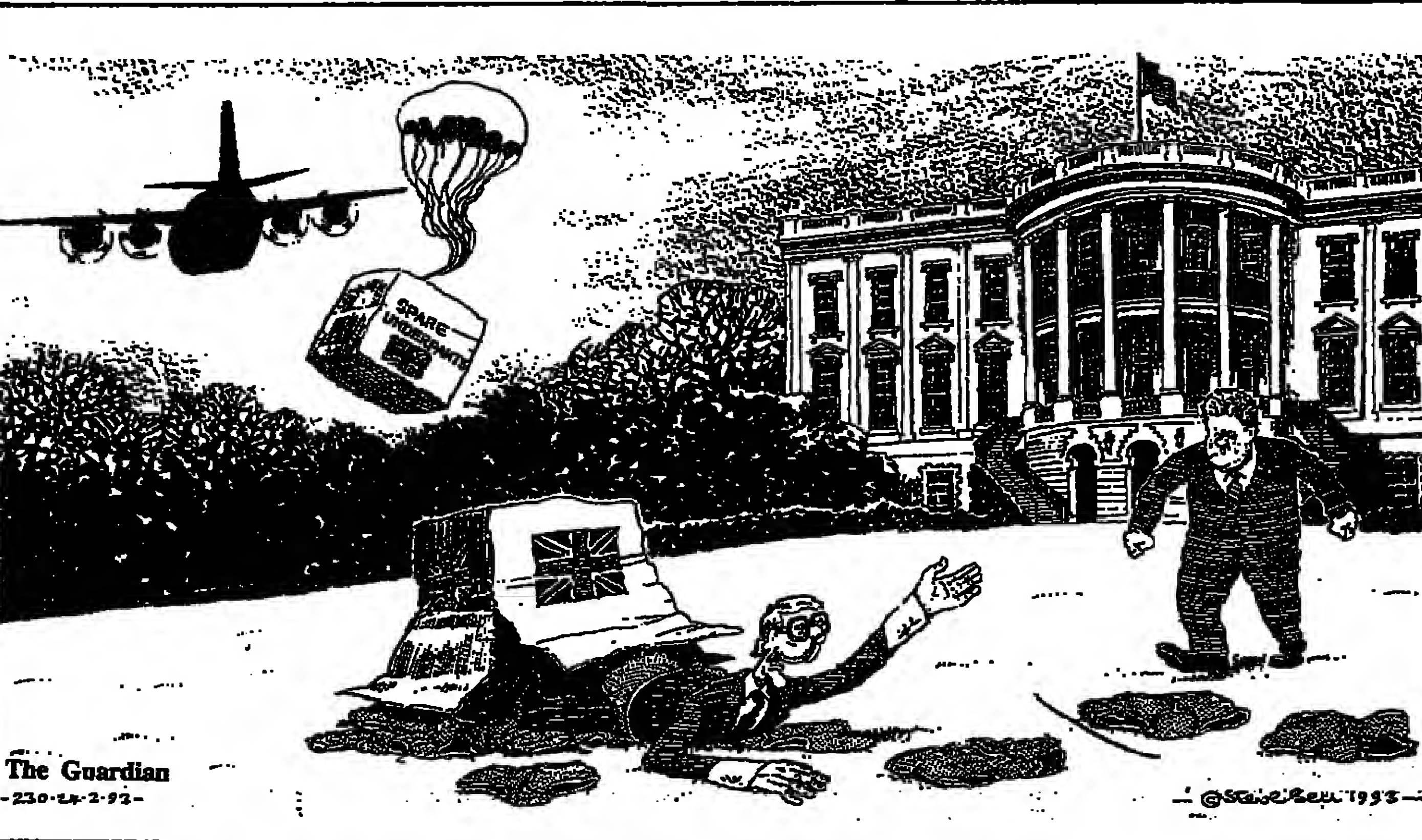
The government was likewise not forthcoming on the proposal to upgrade the level of negotiations. It is also muted on the confederation scheme purporting to link the West Bank with Jordan even though this idea could make or break the entire Arab-Israeli peace talks, including of course the Palestinian-Israeli track.

The traditional and worn out policy founded on the premise that if words are made of silver, silence is made up of gold no longer works in these contemporary times. Gone are the days of keeping a lid of silence or secrecy on national issues.

Jordanians are more informed, more politicised and more opinionated. They simply cannot be ignored or slightly kept abreast of developments on matters that affect their future. Obviously not every piece of confidentiality can be disclosed to the public; modern diplomacy functions on the basis of sifting the top secret from the ordinary. Yet the scope and purview of the ordinary has been expanded and broadened in the nineties.

On the local scene, the Islamist forces may wish to consolidate their strength in the Lower House of Parliament during the next elections. Early projections point to them not only consolidating their 1989 gains but also expanding on them. The Islamist front has a clear platform, clearer than the platforms of the other political parties. They will most certainly strive to turn the country their way not only on where to swim or study but also on the ongoing peace talks, especially between Jordan and Israel. The National Charter that was adopted in 1991 to set guidelines on the operation of democracy in the Kingdom was not bold enough to envisage the projected deep divisions in the country, much less to treat them.

The question uppermost on the minds of various Jordanian constituencies is whether the country is heading to the Algerian situation.



The Arab boycott of Israel is a legitimate part of the peace process

By Abdul Jawad Saleh

THE United States, the European Community and Japan are putting increased pressure on the Arab states to renounce all aspects of the Arab boycott of Israel. Indeed, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, on his recent visit to the region, called for an immediate halt to the secondary and tertiary aspects of the boycott, which was described as "discriminatory." The supposed "unilateral concessions" made by the new Israeli government deserve reciprocity by the Arab World, they said.

But the international community's position is inequitable and erroneous, for it fails to comprehend that the boycott is a legitimate penalty imposed upon a state which seized the territory of another people through the use of force. It is a non-violent protest against Israeli aggression and occupation.

As such, the boycott should only be lifted when Israel complies with U.N. resolutions, and ceases its occupation of all Arab territories. Relinquishing the boycott before a comprehensive peace has been secured is inappropriate and unfair, for it will lead to the perpetuation of the occupation under the guise of a "civil administration." A lifting of the boycott would serve only Israel, which seeks to achieve a normalisation of relations between itself and the Arab states without addressing the Palestinian people's legitimate right to self-determination.

Indeed, the term boycott was originally introduced in Palestine as part of the lexicon of the first Jewish colonisers. It was initially implemented by the Jewish settlers through the ruthless expulsion of hundreds of families of the villages of Marj Ibin Amer, to apply what they called "Hebrew labour." The Kibbutzim and Moshavim, the names of the new Jewish colonies, were restricted only to Jews, whether as workers or beneficiaries.

In reaction to this discrimination, the Palestinians adopted the economic boycott of goods produced by these colonies. The wider Arab boycott, as we know it today, came into being after the 1950s as a non-violent reaction to Israel's destruction of Palestinian

villages and towns, the mass expulsion of the inhabitants and the committing of a number of systematic massacres. The Arab states cut off all contacts with Israel and discouraged foreign companies from dealing with it. They hoped that by doing this, Israel's aggression would be hampered and compliance with U.N. Resolution 194, which stipulates the return of Palestinian refugees, could be achieved.

The boycott was conceived as a legitimate "defensive" action against Israel's aggression, its refusal to abide by United Nations resolutions, and as a valuable bargaining card in any future negotiations. These notions are equally valid now, hence Israel's efforts to secure an end to the boycott outside the peace process.

Israel "resorted to the use of military force" before 1967 to compel the Arab states to "use for peace and to end their boycott." In more recent times, it has successfully pressured Western governments into supporting its cause, resulting in a counter-boycott by many Western governments against companies which have adhered to the Arab boycott.

It is unfortunate that these same Western governments are indifferent to Israel's imposition of a boycott of Palestinian products through a series of laws and military orders, its utilisation of economic warfare in the pursuit of political hegemony and, despite U.S. President Bill Clinton's human rights rhetoric, the unprecedented violations of Palestinians' human rights under Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

With the election of Mr. Clinton as president, the anti-boycott effort is likely to increase. In his election campaign, he said the U.S. "will no longer turn a blind eye to this practice," and he has concurred with his vice-president's initiative to prohibit U.S. Defence Department contracts with any foreign companies that participate in the boycott of Israel.

U.S. government efforts will obviously be very difficult to resist, even for a global economic power such as Japan. For instance, the announcement by the

Japanese Foreign Minister to a visiting group of American Jews, rather than waiting for the arrival of Israel's foreign minister a day later, that Japan would no longer adhere to the boycott is seen as an indication that the Japanese government was addressing Washington not Israel.

The EC now appears to be considering institutionalising its opposition to the boycott. Germany has already enacted an anti-boycott order and, in France, companies adhering to the boycott were recently charged under a law banning "economic discrimination." Also, after Mr. Clinton specifically "encourage(d) and urg(ed) the Saudis to end the boycott," the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states have recently recommended that all its members remove American firms from the boycott blacklist.

Despite all the spurious arguments about free market economy and the immorality of using economic measures to punish a transgressor state, the international history of economic boycotts and embargoes clearly vindicates, and indeed encourages, the continuance of the Arab boycott until a just and comprehensive peace has been attained.

The very definition of the word "boycott" derives from an active expression of disapproval of an unjust act. Customary international law admits the right of states to undertake reprisals such as an embargo in support of their legal claims. The League of Nations allowed for economic and financial sanctions to be applied against transgressor states, and the U.N. Charter allows for "economic and financial non-intercourse" in the case of an act of aggression. Indeed, in past cases where the U.N. General Assembly has endorsed an embargo, the stated purposes included the "implementation of obligations and policies in respect to self-determination and human rights," the very reasons which necessitate the continuance of the Arab boycott against Israel.

It is the U.S. which has been the principle proponent of the trade embargo after World War II. It has used the embargo to punish states it believed to be

threatening its interests, and in many cases it has exerted pressure on its allies to comply. Notable victims of the U.S.'s relentless resort to "economic warfare" are Cuba, Vietnam and Nicaragua. Now, it punishes the children of Iraq by depriving them of medicines and food. Former Secretary of State Dean Rusk testified in 1964 that the trade embargo "is an integral part of our overall policy."

Thus, while the U.S. lambasts the Arab boycott of Israel, it has used, and continues to use, a far more destructive policy to help its own political ends. And, while the U.S. has particularly attacked the secondary and tertiary aspects of the Arab boycott, it has pressured other states to comply with its own trade embargoes, such as the one against Vietnam, establishing a more complete and damaging boycott than the Arab states have ever managed to impose, or even sought to impose on Israel.

The principle of employing a boycott is even more valid for the Arab states, which are striving to achieve peace, rather than trying to subjugate another people. The boycott is a legitimate and valuable negotiating card which should not be thrown away. It must be having an impact otherwise there would not exist such a concerted campaign to defeat it. It is an important symbol of Arab opposition to both Israel's occupation and its refusal to abide by United Nations resolutions. And it is a manifestation of Arab and Palestinian determination to achieve a legitimate and lasting peace.

The U.S., the Europeans and Japan should deal with the crux of the problem, not its manifestations. Only ending the occupation will open the vistas of peace and cooperation. If the international community truly wants peace in the Middle East, it should stop appeasing Israel. Appeasement will not deliver peace, nor will it make great leaders out of those who are merely dwarfs of political expediency.

The writer is director of the Jerusalem Centre for Development Studies.

LETTERS

Schools for profit

To the Editor:

Although private schools in the country are striving and mushrooming by leaps and bounds, they still seem to operate their finances in a laissez faire environment.

There are no laws yet in place that regulate such private institutions when it comes to how much they may charge parents in tuition fees and by how much they may increase them.

This chaotic condition has left parents at the mercy of the owners of these institutes of learning, many of which are not associated with learning in the least.

Judging by the performance of some similar schools, they exist for monetary purposes and operate as an assembly plant for reaping huge and fast profits for their founders. Gone are the days when intellectuals and educators would establish higher excellence in elementary and secondary education, leaving the field wide open for speculators and profiteers.

So when recently two important private schools surprised parents with 30-40% increments on tuition and transportation fees, the affected parents found themselves powerless to act in view of the absence of legislation to regulate such matters. Some of these schools now make it a habit to increase their fees by exorbitant rates almost annually after detecting that they can get away rather unscathed.

Having put their children in private schools in the first place, parents find it impossible to suddenly switch their offspring to other schools. In this sense, private schools that charge parents inflated dues and increase them in a manner unrelated to the national rate of inflation literally have these parents hostages to their manipulations and profiteering.

Against this backdrop, the Ministry of Education is urgently called upon to step in and initiate legislation that aims at bringing order to the finances of private schools which indulge in exaggerated profiteering. The government finds it appropriate to regulate rates even at hotels, so why not regulate educational services whose functions are of national significance and of public concern even though they are privately run?

The ministry controls the curriculum of all private elementary and secondary schools to the minutest detail. Yet when it comes to the monetary dimensions of these schools, the government has a hands off posture that is quite puzzling given the issue's importance. This position contradicts the proposition that private schools also perform a public function in the sense that they take the load of thousands of pupils off the back of the government. The parents who are assisting the government by sending their children to private schools need protection.

The current outcry that was sparked by the decision of the New English School to augment their fees by outrageous rates, reaching 30-40% for the 1993-1994 scholastic year, should be seized upon by reversing this trend in private education and legislating guidelines on it for all private schools to heed. The law of the jungle that still prevails in this domain must end and end quickly.

Waleed Saadi,
Amman.

Give us a chance

To the Editor:

IT SEEMS that it is becoming a habit for everyone to accuse the young generation of impatience and irrational thinking.

This accusation would always take place whenever a young person fails to achieve a goal or to handle an adversity in every day life.

The senior generation launches their attacks on every young man who tries to achieve a higher rank in his job, claiming that he is trying to overstep more experienced people, and that it is mere show off if he comes with new active ideas.

They attack us and blame us for what they call our hasty decisions that would affect our lives, future and career, suggesting that it should be taken in a more prudent way, expecting the young to have the same calm far sighted reactions towards everything that they have. They seem to forget that part of growing up is impatience and desire to experiment with things in this variant world.

I always wanted to probe the reality of this accusation and its reasons. Why would someone condemn a whole generation?

Isn't this generation the one which is facing unemployment, poverty, depression and demoralised hopes?

Isn't this generation taking its share in social problems? Could it possibly be that this generation is the reason for all these problems? Or should one blame the gap between the two generations, that it seems difficult for each party to communicate?

On either case, we should seek the way to bridge the gap further, to cross the bridge to the other bank, meet, discuss our hopes, aspirations and anxieties.

The whole community should stand in steadfastness, hold hands against this failure to communicate.

To succeed, we need first to recognise that both generations are different, then accept these differences.

We need to give chances to each other, to listen in order to reach the desired harmony.

Razan Mohammad Hindawi,
Amman.

Different world, new U.N.?

By Pascal and Boulos Karnay

THE radical changes which have taken place since the United Nations was founded in 1945, such as the end of the two polar system and the refraining of the Security Council permanent members from the use of veto in the last few years, have brought about a world somewhat different from that which had emerged after World War II.

At the end of World War II, the number of United Nations members did not exceed 40. The organization now includes 180 states. The drafters of the United Nations Charter intended the Security Council to be the executive authority of the U.N., and the General Assembly to play the role of a parliament.

Thus in the event that a conflict should arise between the Security Council members, which may paralyze its effectiveness, the General Assembly will fill the gap. This happened during the Korean War in 1950 and during the Suez Canal crisis in 1956, when Britain, France and Israel attacked Egypt after it nationalized the Suez Canal company.

During the cold war years, even the General Assembly became sometimes ineffective, and it may be remembered that during Ronald Reagan's presidency, the U.S. Congress decided to penalize the U.N. alleged American interests for its recurrent voting by cutting off contributions.

The victors of World War II endowed themselves with permanent seats in the Security Council with the right of veto to rescind any resolution which may conflict with their interests.

U.N. Secretary-General Dr. Boutros Ghali has recently stated: "Since its creation in 1945, the United Nations has witnessed the outbreak of about 100 major conflicts in different parts of the world, resulting in twenty million deaths. But the U.N. has failed to stop those conflicts because of the 279 vetoes which had been exercised in the Security Council."

Now, with the end of the cold war and the collapse of the Soviet Union, one may ask: "Does the present composition of the Security Council appropriately represent the world?" In 1945, Germany and Japan were both defeated nations and were obviously excluded from permanent membership in the Security Council as a sort of punishment inflicted by the victors over the vanquished.

Presently, the situation of Germany and Japan is much different from before and both have become, together with the U.S., the strongest economic powers in the world. Consequently, economic competition and not military arms escalation became the hallmark for deciding which state is superior on the world scene.

Japan and Germany occupy presently the second and third places respectively among the biggest contributors to the U.N.'s budget. In the 1950s, the U.S. share in the world trade market was 40 per cent but has fallen to 21 per cent. Britain which was the greatest economic power in the world, now occupies seventh place on the world trade market while France's role diminished as it occupies fifth place.

With the importance and role of Germany and Japan on the world scene growing, one may ask: Why should they not have permanent seats in the Security Council? The foreign minister of the Republic of China, which has the right of veto, has recently conceded that new world developments must reflect on the composition of the Security Council.

Lieutenant-Colonel Hanan Rubin, spokesman for the Israeli policy chief in the occupied territories, said Israel wanted to show its "goodwill" towards the Palestinians living under Israeli rule.

Palestinians have alleged that Israel profits from taxes collected in the occupied territories and has

Council. But is it reasonable to give a permanent seat to Germany, thus increasing to three the number of permanent seats held by the European Community? Or is it possible to grant permanent seats to Germany and Japan, thus making the third world states look at the Security Council as another form of the biggest economic group, the Group of Seven (G-7)? If this development is achieved, it will consecrate the preponderance of the "North" over the whole international community. On the other hand, the last summit of the Non-Aligned Movement held in 1992 in Jakarta had insisted that radical changes be effected in the United Nations to conform with the requirements of the new world in which confrontation between the "North" and the "South" has replaced that between the "East" and the "West".

And in order to hold the balance in this regard, the summit has recommended giving a permanent seat to a Third World country such as India, Indonesia, Nigeria or Egypt.

In the Gulf war, the Security Council members had unanimously for the first time condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. But President George Bush later refused to allow the United Nations to play a role in the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and also rejected Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's suggestion that the U.S. participate in a United Nations trained force to be composed of 20,000 soldiers and put under the authority of the United Nations.

Security Council Resolution 665 and the subsequent resolutions taken against Iraq gave legitimacy to the powers which can enforce them. Recently, Security Council Resolution 793 on Somalia has ushered in a new principle in world affairs, which allows interference and use of force in a country on humanitarian grounds even if that country did not ask for such intervention.

Thus, it seems there is a new trend in world affairs to the effect that humanitarian reasons overcome the principle of non-interference in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state as provided in Paragraph seven of Article two of the U.N. Charter.

Indeed, Resolution 793 was passed unanimously by the Security Council members without any demand on the part of the Somali government. This resolution has constituted an unprecedented example in the history of the United Nations. But an observer may ask why no such action was taken for other parts of the world, such as Bosnia, Liberia, Angola or Mozambique, and what are the criteria according to which the United Nations may interfere in the domestic jurisdiction of any state? It is hoped that not only when the interests of the big powers are at stake that such interference will be effected by the United Nations, but rather when the situation of a state desperately requires such interference.

If a real new world order is to be established, the new role of the United Nations will be to raise itself to the level of moral and ethical standards by the enforcement of the rule of law and justice across the board, regardless of the state or states involved. One measure and one standard of justice must be applied.

The United Nations should enhance and propagate real democracy, real liberty and equality politically and economically in all parts of the world.

Exiles concerned

(Continued from page 1)

— Return of a sizeable number of other Palestinians expelled since 1967.

— Agreement by Israel to stop human rights violations in the occupied territories.

A 19-year-old exile fell off a

rock Sunday and broke his arm.

Evicted doctors treated him at their tent camp between Lebanese and Israeli lines but said he should go to a hospital.

Lebanese troops refuse to allow the evictees into territory under their control and only permit journalists to visit them.

PLQ seeks improved terms

(Continued from page 1)

violated original terms of reference, and we need to get additional clarifications from the U.S. on its role as a sponsor and how it intends to make Israel respect those principles," said Palestinian negotiator Samir Abdallah.

American retraction of its approval of certain points in the document after Israel rejected their inclusion was viewed by Palestinians as an "unencouraging start."

Palestinians also face counter suggestions from Israel on ending the expellees crisis and get the peace talks started in April as

announced by the U.S. and Russia last week.

It is proposing a phased return of the expellees in compliance with Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for an immediate return of the expellees now stranded in South Lebanon, and the return of a limited number of Palestinians expelled since 1967, and measures to improve the human rights situation of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

But the catch is, according to the sources, Israel not willing to undertake these commitments in public. The PLO has not responded to the suggestions.

U.S. planes

(Continued from page 1)

metres, far above flashes of rocket and tracer fire visible below.

"If we did everything we're supposed to do, probably nobody even knew we were there," said captain Jim Smith above the roar of the engines. "Nothing at all was shot at us."

The good crates, wrapped in green tarpaulin and protected with shock-resistant materials, will fall at a speed of 24 metres per second and could easily smash through the roof and upper floor of a building.

During tests in Germany in recent days, materials were dropped to within 200 metres of the target, officials said.

Conan Peisen of the United High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who inspected the crates Saturday, said he hoped larger amounts of relief could be transported by truck to the isolated areas of eastern Bosnia.

Four UNHCR inspectors from the region — two Serbs, a Croat and a Muslim — were still in Frankfurt Sunday ready to check the food shipments were not actually clandestine weapons supplies.

U.S. officials said the leaflet drop, which took 5½ hours, was an unqualified success.

U.S. military officials said the food relief drops will probably begin in one to two days. They refused to be specific for fear that the planes might be fired on.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Sunday that the drop "may last longer than a few days if we see that it's necessary."

Speaking on NBC Television's "Meet the Press" programme, he stressed that the Pentagon believes that risks from the operation are minimal, and said that the high flying planes would be safer than the relief flights that land in Sarajevo.

If the leaflets have missed their targets, that would illustrate the difficulty of making accurate drops from such high altitudes.

On Saturday, radio broadcasts urged people in eastern Bosnia to share the relief equally. Ham radio reports also told of increasingly desperate conditions in the enclaves.

PLQ seeks improved terms

(Continued from page 1)

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Syria: Iraq partition threatens area

(Continued from page 1)

Iraqi regime stay (in power)," eight states.

But the agreement has so far remained largely on paper.

The two countries had provided troops for the 30-nation coalition effort to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

Mr. Sharaa said failure to implement the accord would result in "adverse consequences in the Gulf region, even though the international community, headed by the United States, pays a special concern to Gulf security."

He did not elaborate.

"Some people believe it is money which prevents implementations. I say 'no,' because the cost of the declaration is not high and the value of any arms deal concluded by a Gulf state is higher than the declaration costs."

GCC summit last December endorsed a plan to pump urgent financial assistance into the economies of Egypt and Syria and agreed on wider political and strategic cooperation among the

with whom he held talks in Amman before visiting Baghdad last week.

King Hussein is a man of vision," he said. "I believe that he is deeply committed to the security and stability of the region and the cause of universal peace, and I am fully supportive of his moves."

Mr. Ortega also praised the "innovative capabilities of the people of Iraq, who have survived against all odds and continue to rebuild from the ashes of the war."

Mr. Ortega acknowledged that under the present circumstances the Clinton administration had no incentive to adopt a conciliatory approach towards Iraq. But, he said, "if there is a movement from the region then we could fight and win the battle for a better relationship through dialogue."

Speaking to the Jordan Times in his Amman hotel suite surrounded by six of his 10 children who accompanied him on his trip to Baghdad, Mr. Ortega said his interest and concern for regional stability in the Middle East were directly linked with his efforts to improve the lot of Central America and the Third World within the context of North-South relations.

"The international climate is stacked against the south, and we have to fight it to secure justice for ourselves," he said.

"The change in administrations in Washington offers the right atmosphere to start the struggle."

Mr. Ortega paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein,

adding that Iran should be brought into the framework of a better balance of forces.

He said Iran, "which has its own priorities, should be among those sitting around the table for dialogue since the whole idea is to bring about a total change in relations among the countries in the region."

As long as the leaders of the Middle East do not take the initiative, he added, "the scene will remain open for influences from external forces which have little interest in changing the status quo in the region."

On the other hand, if the regional players do indeed realise where the interests of their people lie and move accordingly then "the external forces would have no choice but to readjust their acts."

"What we need today is dialogue with an open agenda with no preconditions among the countries of the Middle East," he said. "Leaders have to shelve their personal considerations as busy ideological or political differences among them and be ready to talk openly with no reservations about the real interests of their peoples and countries."

He said he had not contacted any of the leaders of the Gulf states "yet," and that his discussions with President Saddam and other Iraqi leaders were "aimed at getting to know of Iraqi views as the first step."

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PLQ seeks improved terms

(Continued from page 1)

violated original terms of reference, and we need to get additional clarifications from the U.S. on its role as a sponsor and how it intends to make Israel respect those principles," said Palestinian negotiator Samir Abdallah.

American retraction of its approval of certain points in the document after Israel rejected their inclusion was viewed by Palestinians as an "unencouraging start."

Palestinians also face counter suggestions from Israel on ending the expellees crisis and get the peace talks started in April as

announced by the U.S. and Russia last week.

It is proposing a phased return of the expellees in compliance with Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for an immediate return of the expellees now stranded in South Lebanon, and the return of a limited number of Palestinians expelled since 1967, and measures to improve the human rights situation of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

But the catch is, according to the sources, Israel not willing to undertake these commitments in public. The PLO has not responded to the suggestions.

U.S. planes

(Continued from page 1)

metres, far above flashes of rocket and tracer fire visible below.

"If we did everything we're supposed to do, probably nobody even knew we were there," said captain Jim Smith above the roar of the engines. "Nothing at all was shot at us."

The good crates, wrapped in green tarpaulin and protected with shock-resistant materials, will fall at a speed of 24 metres per second and could easily smash through the roof and upper floor of a building.

During tests in Germany in recent days, materials were dropped to within 200 metres of the target, officials said.

Conan Peisen of the United High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who inspected the crates Saturday, said he hoped larger amounts of relief could be transported by truck to the isolated areas of eastern Bosnia.

Four UNHCR inspectors from the region — two Serbs, a Croat and a Muslim — were still in Frankfurt Sunday ready to check the food shipments were not actually clandestine weapons supplies.

U.S. officials said the leaflet drop, which took 5½ hours, was an unqualified success.

U.S. military officials said the food relief drops will probably begin in one to two days. They refused to be specific for fear that the planes might be fired on.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Sunday that the drop "may last longer than a few days if we see that it's necessary."

Speaking on NBC Television's "Meet the Press" programme, he stressed that the Pentagon believes that risks from the operation are minimal, and said that the high flying planes would be safer than the relief flights that land in Sarajevo.

If the leaflets have missed their targets, that would illustrate the difficulty of making accurate drops from such high altitudes.

On Saturday, radio broadcasts urged people in eastern Bosnia to share the relief equally. Ham radio reports also told of increasingly desperate conditions in the enclaves.

PLQ seeks improved terms

(Continued from page 1)

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Hamas rejects American proposal

(Continued from page 1)

Hamas members suspected of a spate of attacks against Israeli forces in December.

Two senior PLO officials confirmed the Friday meeting. Mr. Nazzari and the two PLO officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the American proposals were:

— Israel would fully implement within a fixed timetable U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for the expellees' return. This represents a compromise because the resolution actually calls for the "immediate" return of the expellees.

— The United States pledged to speed up the process of repatriat-

ing the evictees.

— Israel would avoid further expulsions.

— Israel would consider the repatriation of "large number" of other Palestinians Israel has expelled from the West Bank and Gaza Strip since 1967.

— Israel would cease violations of human rights in the occupied territories.

The United States reiterated a commitment to U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The Palestinians have suspended their participation in the 16-month, U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks in response to Israel's expulsion order.

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Mexican Manuel Medina (right), battered and bruised, blood streaming from a cut over his left eye, still fights for the International Boxing Federation (IBF) featherweight title against American Tom Johnson. Johnson later won the title (AP photo)

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Al Orthodoxy discharge coach

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Orthodoxy Club Sunday failed to renew their contract with the Israeli head coach of their First Division basketball team, Mohammad Al Najjar. Najjar had led Al Orthodoxy to capturing the First Division title which Al Ahli won in 1990. The press has learnt that some members of the club's board as well as senior players of the team opposed the renewal of Najjar's contract.

Colombia arrives minus three key players

SYDNEY (AP) — Colombian hopes for a good start to the World Youth Soccer Championship have been damaged by the late withdrawal of three key players. The team, which was met at Sydney Airport Sunday by nearly 200 flag-waving and singing supporters, plays host nation Australia at the Sydney Football Stadium Friday night in the opening match of the tournament. Two key players were injured in the past two weeks and another player could not gain a release from his club.

Real Madrid lead standings

MADRID (R) — Deportivo Coruna had a player sent off and missed a penalty as they conceded the Spanish League leadership to Real Madrid Saturday. Real fell behind in the 33rd minute but fought back to beat Deportivo 2-1 before a crowd of 103,000. Real lead the table on goal difference from Deportivo. Barcelona are third four points behind but have two games in hand.

Fans scream for blood at 'Brawl at the Wall'

BEIJING (R) — Young Chinese workers Saturday screamed for blood, chanted, and stood on their seats at the country's first professional boxing tournament, billed as the "Brawl at the Wall." A near capacity crowd of 18,000 watched five pro fights at Beijing's capital gymnasium — a drop in the ocean compared with the 440 million watching live television coverage in farms and villages across the world's most populous country. American light-heavyweights Leonzer Barber and Mike Sedillo displayed boxing skills never before seen in China, where the sport was banned for 28 years as "uncivilised" after the 1949 Communist Revolution. Barber scored a unanimous points decision to retain his WBO crown.

Bulls, Kings score wins

CHICAGO (R) — Dominique Wilkins scored 38 points to top Michael Jordan's 34, but TNT Tucker was the perfect complement with a season-high 24 to carry Jordan's Chicago Bulls past Wilkins' Atlanta Hawks 112-92 Saturday. Tucker shot nine for nine, including six for six from the three-point range, as Chicago improved to 10-2 in February. Stacey King added 16 points for the Bulls, who were without Scottie Pippen. The All-Star forward was serving a one-game suspension for punching Jeff Turner of the Orlando Magic. At Utah, rookie Walt Williams scored 17 of his game-high 37 points in the fourth quarter, including a go-ahead layup with 36 seconds remaining, as the Sacramento Kings beat the Jazz 121-117.

Japan beats China in relay marathon

YOKOHAMA (AP) — Izumi Maki overtook a Chinese runner on the fifth leg and Japan's national team held on for a 40 second victory Sunday in the 11th Yokohama international Women's Ekiden, a relay marathon. Japan's six runners covered the 42.195 kilometres through the streets of Yokohama in 2 hours, 17 minutes, 6 seconds. China, which led from the second leg until Maki surged ahead, placed second among the 19 teams from 10 nations in 2:17:54. Russia was third Sunday in 2:10:50.

Maradona to discuss disciplinary action

SEVILLE (AP) — Argentine soccer superstar Diego Maradona asked F.C. Sevilla's pardon Saturday for recent antics that have led the club to open disciplinary proceedings, the club president said. Maradona and countryman Diego Simeone met with Sevilla managers to discuss the club's investigation into the players' recent trips to Argentina for national team games. The club ordered the investigation after Maradona and Simeone returned late from the Argentine national team's game against Brazil earlier this month, then returned to Argentina without authorization for a game against Denmark.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH
1000 Times Media Services, Inc.

TOO MUCH DUCK

Both vulnerable, South deals.
NORTH
♠ A Q 10 3 2
♥ 7 5
♦ A 10 9
♣ K 10 9
WEST EAST
♠ 7 6 5 ♠ K 8 4
♥ K Q 8 6 ♥ J 10
♦ J 5 2 ♦ K Q 4 3
♣ 7 3 ♣ J 8 4 2

SOUTH
♠ J 9
♥ A 3 2
♦ A 7 6
♣ A 8 6 6

The bidding:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Opening lead: Eight.
Here's another of an interesting collection of handsets used by Gerald Fox of Napa, Calif. All hinged around hold-up plays. Suppose you are declaring three no trump from the South seat and West leads the eight of hearts. Do you hold up your ace for one round? Two rounds? Not at all!

Three no trump is a simple enough contract to reach. Note North's willingness to push on to game once South showed a balanced hand with invitational values.

Although minimum in terms of high cards, the possession of so many intermediates (10s and 9s) gave the North hand "body," increasing its trick-taking potential.

The danger to the contract comes if the hands are distributed as in the diagram. With the spade finesse failing, if you win the first heart, the defenders will reel off four heart tricks and the king of spades before you can come to nine tricks.

Now let's suppose you hold up the ace of hearts for two rounds. Astute defenders will shift to a diamond, and your opponents will come to two hearts, at least two diamonds and the king of spades—still no good.

The Rule of Seven (seven less the combined number of cards in the suit led) tells you to hold up just one round. Now when the spade finesse loses, either East will be out of hearts or the suit will split 4-3 and the defenders can get no more than three hearts and a spade.

This is not a sure-trick line. An inspired East might shift to a low diamond at trick two, then cash three tricks in the suit when you take the losing spade finesse. Not likely with A 10 9 of diamonds in dummy, but if the defense is that good, congratulate the opponents and move on to the next hand.

FIFA gives go ahead for experiments with sudden death, kick-ins

THUNDRIE, England (AP) — The rule making arm of soccer's governing body announced Saturday it will allow experimentation with sudden death overtime and replacing throw ins with kick-ins, but virtually ruled out such changes for the 1994 World Cup.

"There will be no alteration of the laws of the game for the World Cup in (the United States) in 1994," said Sepp Blatter, general secretary of FIFA, at the annual meeting of the international body.

The first trial involving sudden death overtime will be at next month's under-20 World Championships in Australia. The sudden death rule will apply only during the usual periods of extra time. Should the teams still be tied after that, there will then be a penalty shoot-out.

The experimentation with kick-

ins, designed to open up the game and relieve congestion in the middle of the field, will be in effect for the under-17 World Championships in Japan in August.

Board members will observe the changes and decide next year if the new rules should be implemented in a major, professional league on a trial basis. The rules could then be written into the laws of the game as early as 1995, according to Blatter.

Speculation had been that FIFA would try to implement the sudden death rule in time for next year's World Cup, given the criticism of the penalty shoot-out as used in cup games in Italy in 1990.

Blatter said this was "not in discussion" and noted that the board had already introduced a number of changes, such as the new back-pass rule, to liven up

the game.

"After the World Cup in Italy, something was wrong with soccer," said Blatter, citing goals among the chief culprits. "There was a lot of cheating by wasting time."

The board has yet to decide on the guidelines for the use of kick-ins, such as whether the off sides and back pass rules will be in effect when the ball is put in play. Pending those decisions, the kick-in could prove to be a major offensive weapon with players able to kick the ball into the scoring area from the sideline in much the same way as a corner kick.

"Today the game is all stuck in the midfield," said Blatter, endorsing the kick-ins. "This will open up the game."

In other action, the board agreed to take action against

what it called "deliberate tricks" used by players to circumvent the back-pass rule. Some players have been getting around the rule, which prohibits a deliberate kick pass to the goalie, by heading the ball while it is on the ground, for example. Such an action will now result in an indirect free kick.

Also the board, conceding that the "coach should be considered part of the game," passed a rule allowing the coach to shout instructions to players during the game, as long as he remains in the bench area.

The board also modified the offside rule when applied in the opponent's penalty area. The resulting free kick can now take place at any point in the goal area, making it consistent with other free kicks in that part of the field.

Fernandez, Coetzer in Evert Cup final

INDIAN WELLS (R) — Mary Joe Fernandez, still looking for that true winner's mentality, and South African Amanda Coetzer earned berths in the final of the \$375,000 Evert Cup with straight-set victories Saturday.

Fernandez, the top seed, beat fifth seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 6-3 6-1 in 67 minutes to stand a match away from only her third career title.

Coetzer, the fourth seed, beat unseeded Stephanie Rotier of the Netherlands 6-4 6-3 in the other semifinal match, a one-hour 50-minute baseline duel where serving was disadvantage.

There were 10 service breaks in the 19 games. Fernandez, who leads Coetzer 2-0 in career meetings, has been ranked in the world's top 10 for the past three years, but has had difficulty winning tournaments.

"It's just a matter of getting that break," the seventh-ranked American said, adding that she felt another victory or two could put her in the winning habit for good.

"Once I win one or two, it's going to be easier. It's mental. It's all in the head."

"I've got to think that I've made it where I'm supposed to be, and it's just one more

match." Fernandez, who lost to top-ranked Monica Seles in six of the 10 semifinals she reached last year, became the top seed here when Steffi Graf and Jennifer Capriati, who would have been seeded one-two in this 56-player hardcourt tournament, both pulled out due to pulled stomach muscles.

The 18th-ranked Coetzer took advantage of several unforced errors in the second set from the hard-hitting, 76th-ranked Rotier, who had stopped American Tracy Austin's comeback in the third round.

Novacek, Jarryd in Rotterdam

Seventh seed Karel Novacek of the Czech Republic and Swedish outsider Anders Jarryd qualified for the final of the \$600,000 World Indoor Tennis Tournament.

The 27-year-old Novacek, winner of the ATP tournament in Dubai at the start of the month, disposed of Italian Diego Nargiso 6-3 6-4 in 80 minutes.

Novacek, who has won all his matches here in straight sets, was too strong for the Italian, a qualifier for the tournament. He and Jarryd have never played each

other before.

Jarryd, 31, who entered the tournament as a wild card, beat fifth-seeded Russian Alexander Volkov 6-3 6-7 6-3 after eliminating eighth-seeded South African Wayne Ferreira and the second seed, Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, earlier in the week.

Jarryd, ranked 156 in the world and a Rotterdam finalist in 1986 and 1989, broke Volkov's serve three times in the deciding set to ensure his victory.

Agassi to meet Ondruska

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP) — Second seeded Andre Agassi beat unseeded Mark Woodforde of Australia 6-2, 6-3 Saturday night to advance to the final of the Pirelli Tennis Championships against South African Marcos Ondruska.

Agassi, is now 11-1 in match play this season, hasn't come close to dropping a set all week.

Woodforde teamed with fellow Aussie Todd Woodbridge to win the doubles title in Memphis two weeks ago, then took the singles championship last Sunday in Philadelphia. But when he reached back for something extra against Agassi, it wasn't there.

"I felt like I had to work hard

to win every point and he makes you pay for every mistake," Woodforde said. "It's good play a guy like Andre. I got a chance to look at what I've been shooting for."

What he saw was a confident and focused Agassi, one who feels unbeatable and is actually looking forward to the player who can offer a stern test.

"I'm really into it right now," he said. "Part of me is hoping for a tough match from Ondruska tomorrow. If I get down a break now I kind of enjoy it because it gets me going."

The unseeded Ondruska continued his streak of upsets earlier Saturday, beating eighth-seeded Andrei Chesnokov 6-4, 7-5. Ondruska has yet to lose a serve while knocking out three seeds during the week.

Started off a little shaky but after I won my first game I won my first game I was ok," said Ondruska, who beat No. 4 Francisco Clavet, David Wheaton and No. 5 Brad Gilbert earlier in the week. "It's been like a dream week for me and getting to a final here means a lot to me."

Chesnokov said he was happy to reach the semifinals and his performance against Ondruska. He just ran into a player on a roll.

Sheringham moves into Lineker slot

LONDON (R) — Move over Gary Lineker — here comes Teddy Sheringham.

Lineker is now in Japan, but Tottenham fans may be forgiven for thinking: "Who needs him?"

Sheringham shrugged off a missed penalty in Saturday's game with fellow Londoners Queen's Park Rangers, then headed home twice, inspiring Tottenham to a 3-2 win.

It was the club's sixth victory in succession and Sheringham's goal-haul for the season now stands at 22, with 12 arriving in the last eight matches.

Tottenham's season has been transformed from the barely mediocre to one of good things to come.

Eighth in the table, a place in

Europe is not impossible and supporters can envisage, on current form, another Wembley F.A. Cup final appearance.

Their stylish football against QPR had coach Doug Livermore in raptures but he was less happy about the two goals conceded during the last five minutes.

He said: "Our passing and movement were excellent again and I was delighted with some of the great football we played."

"But it was disappointing to concede two late goals. We have to cut that out if we are to continue our improvement. We relaxed too much and in the end the scoreline did not reflect the balance of play."

Sheringham came to Spurs for \$4 million from Nottingham

Forest at the end of last August when he joined, the Londoners had just suffered four games without a win and scored only two goals.

The shirt which used to be Lineker's is firmly on Sheringham's back now and Forest manager Brian Clough must be pondering the decision to let him go.

Forest, after a mini-revival, lost 2-0 at home to Manchester City Saturday, and are still dangerously close to the relegation zone.

At the top of the table, leaders Aston Villa beat Wimbledon 1-0 thanks to a 79th minute strike by Dwight Yorke.

They stay two points clear of Manchester United who rolled

over weak Middlesbrough 3-0.

Liverpool manager Graeme Souness refused to comment about his decision to drop Ian Rush at Sheffield Wednesday.

Souness parried questions about the controversial axing of the Welsh striker and would only comment: "This is a game we should have won."

"We had more chances today than we have had in our last four matches. A 1-1 draw is a bad result for us under the circumstances."

Crowds all over the country observed a minute's silence in memory of Bobby Moore whose old club West Ham secured a 0-0 draw at Sunderland to maintain their division one promotion challenge.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MARCH 1, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You are likely to be wrapped up in getting your own way that real resentment is likely if anyone interferes with your game plan which is bound to get off course in the AM as the Moon squares the Sun. Partner looks to you for help.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Sit down with associates and come to a meeting of minds on just what your approach to joint matters are to be and tonight you can work out a satisfactory plan of action.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can add whatever will make your labours more valuable by your own talent today while tonight consult with partner about some new venture.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Do those recreations that bring you joy and pleasure during the daytime while tonight you can get much done that has been hanging over your head.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Consider well how your family want you to back them in the days ahead and then tonight you can do so as well as enjoy amusements.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take time out now to consider and follow through with the aims that have been expressed to you by daily associates, tonight enjoy yourself at home.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Consider well how your family want you to back them in the days ahead and then tonight you can do so as well as enjoy amusements.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You feel benign and happy today and can achieve much of personal progress while later you find your sense of building secure is excellent.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Look for an astute adviser who can give you the steer in the right direction you want, then you can go forward tonight from that worthwhile position.

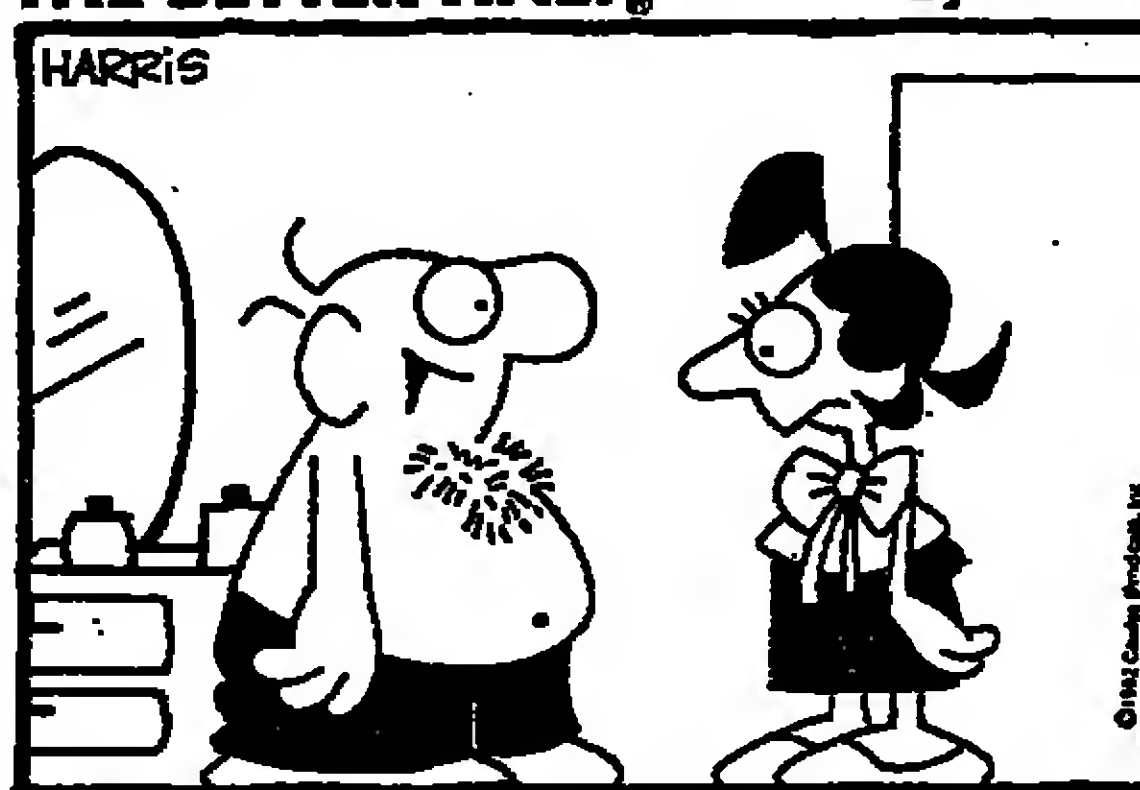
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You now can use your sense of particularity to please one who can slant you in the right direction to gain aims, later seek out desired confidential data.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can use all of that special ability now that you have to increase your position and effectiveness in career, civic interests, then gain intimate aims.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have remarkably good insight into just what you can do to go forward now to much better conditions; then take these ideas to a bigwig.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Use your sense of neat touch, fine finish and the artistic now to please those with whom you have usual contact after which be off to new scenes.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I borrowed your false eyelashes!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CHURS

ACEEP

WHERDS

GUNSLY

What did he say?

WHAT THE POLITICIAN BECAME WHEN HIS GHOST WRITER SUDDENLY VANISHED.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____!

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TUNED GNARL EASILY SHADOW

Answer: What the cleaning woman at the theater developed—"STAGE HANDS"

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia L. Yates

ACROSS

1 Grouchy

6 Lee J. or Ty

10 Chang

14 Printing proof, for short

15 On a hot date

16 Woodwind

17 "bombs" bursting

18 Tease

19 Flight maneuver

20 Steps on it

23 New Zealand

24 Frigate folk

25 Ms Lamer

26 Hat measure

31 Outbreaks

35 Buryan tool

36 Genders

38 Store or party

39 Gathers

42 Graphic cover

43 Gloomily, to Poe

44 Apollo's son

45 Hammer

47 Gray

48 Lavant cup

51 Wood fish

53 Things to do

60 Strong — or

61 Bassist family name

62 Difficult problem

63 Bellow

64 US agent

65 Grip, river

66 Has a look-see

67 Chemical suffix

68 Period

8 Church sale

10 Great big

11 — Ben Adham

12 Chimney dirt

13 Cognizant

21 Vin of the gods

22 Chest part

25 Closures

26 Make much of

27 Name on a

28 Bible book

30 School, in art

32 Steamed

33 Bar, at the bar

34 Obscure

36 Words to go by

37 Swami

40 Touchdown

41 Vaughan of

42 Synthetic

43 E for —

44 Diaphanous

52 Charters

53 Wow, to a Brit

54 Carry on

55 Linguis

56 Town near

57 Chomsky

58 Melody

59 Inking

60 Crispness

61 Town near

62 Pacify

Yeltsin says his patience is at an end, questions constitution

MOSCOW (R) — Boris Yeltsin accused Russia's conservative parliament Sunday of pushing the country towards ruin and declared angrily: "I, as president, cannot tolerate such a situation any longer."

But Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, underlining Mr. Yeltsin's vulnerability, demanded the president abandon his radical market reforms immediately and accept a return to broad state controls.

Mr. Yeltsin, in a fighting speech that suggested he had all but buried hopes of a power-sharing deal with deputies, openly questioned the legitimacy of the constitution of which he now sees himself increasingly a prisoner.

Parliament, he said, had seized powers from him to the extent that it now ran a "parallel government" blocking reform. It planned further constitutional changes at a session of the top legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies.

"I did not swear my oath to such a constitution," Mr. Yeltsin told a meeting of the Civic Union centre-right grouping hours after returning from a 12-day holiday at his country villa.

"They are talking about refusing to divide powers...if we refuse to divide powers we will get either dictatorship or anarchy, both of which would be ruinous for Russia," he said.

His audience, including powerful industrial chiefs and leaders of several political parties, listened in silence.

Civic Union leaders, whose support Mr. Yeltsin needs at a Congress session expected in March, said they were ready to back the president only if he embraced their cautious policies.

"We must talk about a com-

plete change of course," Mr. Rutskoi said, directly after Mr. Yeltsin's speech.

Mr. Yeltsin listened impassively to the conservative vice-president's address, which was punctuated with applause as he attacked government reforms he said were crippling industry.

Mr. Yeltsin said the present deadlock could be solved by a power-sharing agreement with the legislature, under its leader Russian Khasbulatov, or by a referendum planned for April.

Power-sharing talks between Mr. Khasbulatov and Mr. Yeltsin, however, failed to produce agreement by a deadline that passed Friday, furthermore, congress could block a referendum.

Mr. Yeltsin's attacks seem certain to anger hardline deputies, wary of any possible attempt by the president to suspend the constitution and parliament.

Under the existing constitution, he is not empowered to dissolve parliament. Nor can he limit its powers by imposing a state of emergency without the backing of deputies.

But several senior radical deputies pressed Mr. Yeltsin last November to override the constitution — a much-amended document which dates from the days of centralised Communist rule.

Russian leaders have been arguing for more than two years over a new constitution that would clearly divide legislative and executive power but have failed to adopt it.

The president has said his

loyalties under the oath he swore in June 1991 were to the people first and foremost and only then to the constitution. Sunday's comments for the first time questioned the legitimacy of the constitution outright.

Mr. Yeltsin faces many uncertainties and his position is weak and becoming weaker, though he enjoys strong popular legitimacy as Russia's first democratically-elected president.

But his powers are poorly defined in a constitution which still identifies Congress as the "supreme organ of state power" and gives parliament broad control over state property.

A top Yeltsin aide, exaggerating for the sake of effect, said last week Mr. Yeltsin's position had effectively been reduced to that of the queen of England.

The loyalty of the army and security police to Mr. Yeltsin is far from guaranteed. Moreover, drastic actions to restore strong central power could stir rebellion in increasingly assertive autonomous regions of the sprawling Russian Federation.

Congress in December amended the constitution to give parliament the final say in appointing the ministers of security, foreign affairs, interior and defence.

It also forced Mr. Yeltsin, in a humiliating climbdown, to drop his prime minister and economic reform architect Yegor Gaidar.

Mr. Khasbulatov, backed by conservative regional Soviets elected in the Communist era, insists the legislature is not only within its rights to wrest powers from Mr. Yeltsin but is obliged to act to protect Russia from damage wrought by the president's reforms.

In a separate development, Mr. Yeltsin said Sunday Russia should be granted a special status on the territory of the former Soviet Union to monitor conflicts and prevent ethnic clashes.

Mr. Yeltsin also said Russia

was ready to set up some sort of confederation with those former

Soviet republics which were ready to join it.

Both proposals were certain to anger Ukraine and some other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States which are wary of any hint of what they see as Russian dominance. But it could find a welcome in more dependent neighbouring republics such as Kazakhstan.

"I think the moment has come when responsible international organisations, including the United Nations should grant Russia special powers as a guarantor of peace and stability in the region of the former union," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Mr. Yeltsin did not specify what kind of powers Russia might seek.

Russia and Kazakhstan decided Saturday to pool their military forces to create a common defence zone between the two largest former Soviet republics, a presidential statement said.

The ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov as saying the treaty on military cooperation and the joint use of military potential would be ready within a month.

The decision to create a common defence space was worked out during talks in Moscow between Mr. Yeltsin and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, the statement said.

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Nazarbayev also agreed to work out a customs policy, the statement said. Until the Soviet Union collapsed, people and goods moved freely between all 15 republics.

With the emergence of 15 independent countries, their governments have been forced to consider the issues of formalising borders and introducing customs controls.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia train blast kills 13

MOSCOW (AP) — A powerful explosion on a train bound for the Azerbaijani capital of Baku Sunday killed 13 passengers and wounded 12 others, a news agency reported. The Interfax News Agency said the explosion occurred as the train was leaving the station at Gudermes, a small town about 30 kilometres from the city of Grozny in the Chechnya region of southern Russia. The ITAR-TASS News Agency said that train No. 260 had originated in the resort city of Kislovodsk, 1400 kilometres south of Moscow. The explosion occurred at 7:45 a.m. (0445 GMT) in a sleeping compartment of the train. ITAR-TASS reported that 10 people were killed and 15 were wounded. There was no immediate explanation for the difference in the number of dead and wounded. ITAR-TASS said that there was no derailment, and that the explosion did not disturb other rail traffic. Interfax reported that the preliminary investigation indicated that the explosion was not an accident, but the agency provided no further details.

Vietnam urges U.S. to resume ties

HANOI (R) — Vietnam's leader, Do Muoi, has urged U.S. President Bill Clinton to lay to rest America's bitterness over the Vietnam war, normalise diplomatic relations with Hanoi and lift a nearly 30-year-old trade embargo. "Let's establish normal relations. Forget the bitterness. Let it pass," he said. Mr. Muoi, general-secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, told Reuters in a rare interview Saturday that Mr. Clinton ought to find it easier than some other Americans to turn a new page with Hanoi since he had openly opposed the Vietnam war as a young man. "What did Vietnam do to lead the United States to fight in Vietnam? ... If I meet the American president, I will ask that same question. I will ask: 'Why did America fight against Vietnam?'" Mr. Muoi said in a nearly two-hour interview in his home in Hanoi. "It was Mr. Bill Clinton who was against the Vietnam war, so I think it will be easier for him to solve the question," he said.

Technician dies in Sweden rocket blast

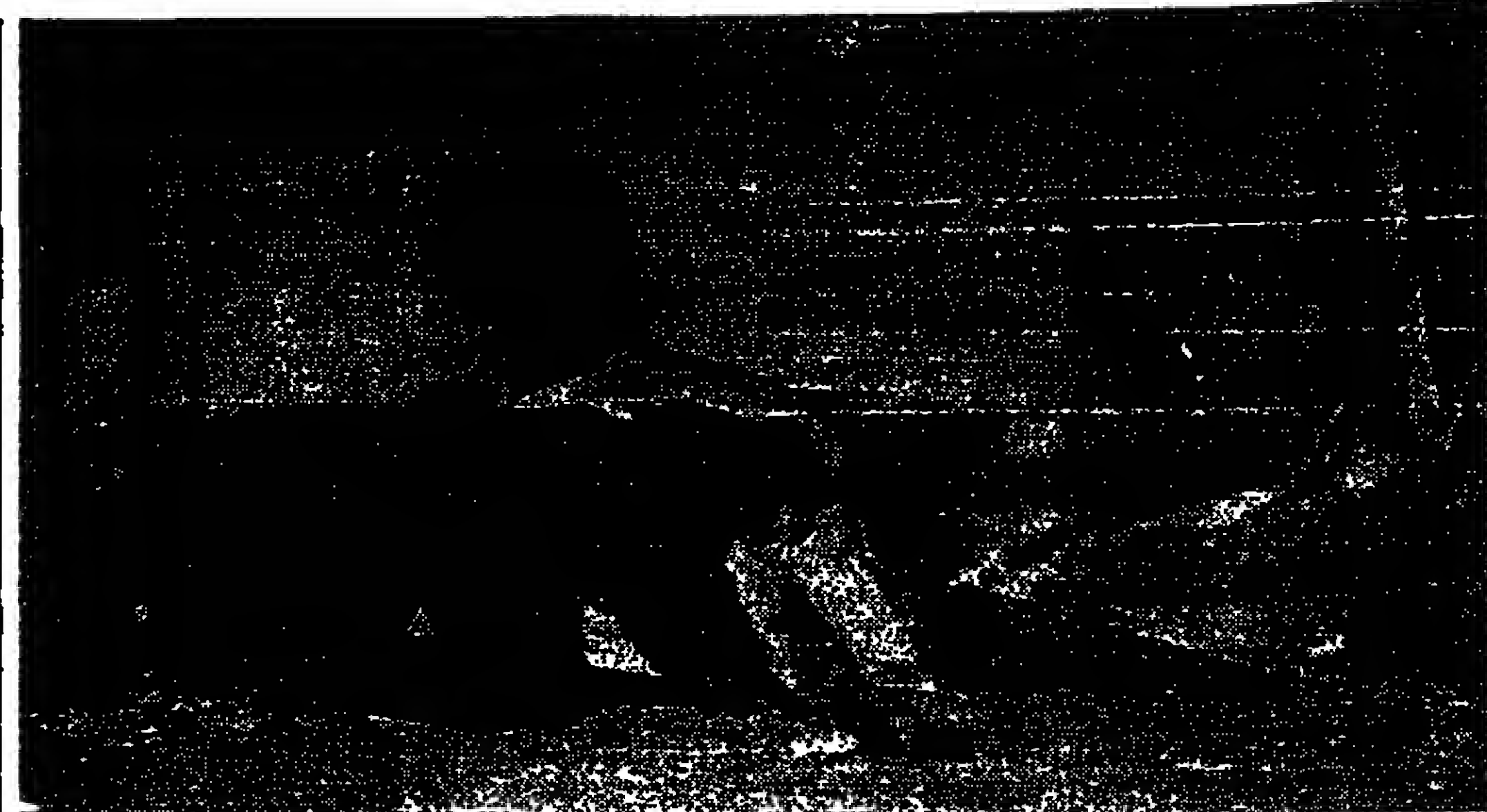
KIRUNA, Sweden (R) — A team investigated Sunday how a space rocket ignited and shot horizontally through two buildings, killing one technician and injuring three others. The accident shook Sweden's European Space Range (ESRANGE) Centre in the Arctic circle near Kiruna Saturday when technicians checked the Orion rocket on a flat testbed prior to its launch scheduled for Sunday. The seven-metre (20-foot) rocket was to have carried a payload of equipment from a German space research organisation to measure the Earth's ozone layer. The dead technician and two of the injured were Swedes, while one German technician was hurt, according to officials at the centre. Acting Station Manager Jorgen Hjalmar said the rocket, fuelled by solid fuel, suddenly self-ignited and crashed through the closed wooden doors of the testing shed. Swedish newspapers said the dead technician had been hit by the rocket's tail-fin. The rocket then accelerated, ripped through one corrugated metal wall of a launching pad and out the other side before exploding in the woods 50 metres away.

Niger elections run to 2nd round

NIAMEY (R) — The former ruling party's candidate is leading in Niger's first free presidential elections but voting will go to a second round, near-final results showed Sunday. With results of Saturday's poll declared for all but the western region of Tillabery, Mamadou Tandja of the National Movement for a Development Society (MNSD) was leading with 34 per cent of the votes. The MNSD is the former single party of ex-President Ali Saibou, who was barred from office by a national pro-democracy conference in 1991. Second with 28 per cent was Ousmane Mahamane of the Social Democratic Convention (CDS), the biggest opposition party. Their nearest rivals were Mr. Mahamane Issoufou with 16 per cent and Moumouni Djermakoye with 14 per cent. Four other candidates polled about two per cent each.

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Police search on the ground in a parking garage under the World Trade Centre where an apparent bomb exploded on Feb. 26 (AFP photo)

Security tightened in New York, Washington

NEW YORK (R) — Security has been tightened in New York and Washington following the blast at the World Trade Centre, which officials said was almost certainly a bomb, but they urged Americans not to let fears of terrorism change their lives.

New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said authorities had received 19 separate telephone calls claiming responsibility for the explosion at the world's second highest building Friday, and were trying to discern a pattern to the claims.

Five people died, 15 were injured and two are missing after the blast, according to Deputy Mayor Norman Steisel, who said over 1,000 people were treated for inhaling smoke as they struggled down stairwells to safety.

Quoting sources at police briefings, the New York Times Sunday reported that investigators were taking one call more seriously than the others. It came from a caller with a foreign accent who referred to the strike in former Yugoslavia.

The call considered the most interesting came to the First (Police) Precinct in the Wall Street area, at 1:35 p.m., more than an hour after the explosion, the newspaper said.

"The foreign accented caller seemed confused and related the blast to the fighting between Serbs and Croats," the newspaper quoted officials as saying.

It noted that the caller did not appear to possess any information not already given out in news broadcasts.

The paper said a later call to a bank also linked the blast with events in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

where a civil war is raging following the break-up of the Yugoslav Federation.

A police spokeswoman said she could not comment on the report. "We have not identified who has claimed responsibility," she said.

"There's a high probability it is a bombing, it may be terrorist-related," James Fox, deputy director of the FBI in New York, told a news conference.

The New York Times Sunday quoted unnamed federal officials as saying that preliminary tests of the debris of the blast found no evidence of plastic explosives often used by guerrillas.

New York Governor Mario Cuomo said the bombing left a "feeling of being violated," but added that life must go on as normal.

"Fear is another weapon that is used against you, and what they're trying to do is deny you normalcy," Gov. Cuomo said.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the seven-building centre, is also in charge of the area's three airports and has tightened security at the terminals.

It has gone on "stage three" alert, the second highest, restricting access to some areas and deploying more police. Security has also been tightened at some Washington buildings.

Officials refused to speculate about the size of the bomb involved, but said they were shocked at how powerful it must have been.

"I was completely overwhelmed, I've never seen anything like it before," said James Fessuolo, chief engineer at the

complex. "This crater is like looking into a volcano."

Port authority officials said the huge twin towers of the complex were structurally sound despite the force of the blast. However the Vista Hotel, also in the complex, had suffered some structural damage.

Officials said that all but one of the smaller buildings would remain closed until the communications and safety systems could be restored. They gave no timetable but indicated it could be a matter of weeks rather than days.

This would mean major disruptions for the financial and commodity firms that are among the tenants.

President Bill Clinton pledged the full support of the U.S. government Saturday to find out who planted the bomb that exploded at the World Trade Centre.

"Working together, we'll find out who was involved and why this happened," Mr. Clinton said in his weekly radio address.

Mr. Clinton said that after the explosion he spoke to Gov. Cuomo and Mayor David Dinkins "to assure them that the full measure of federal law enforcement resources will be brought to bear on this investigation."

He said he spoke Saturday morning with Federal Bureau of Investigation Director William Sessions, "who assured me that the FBI and the Treasury Department are working closely with the New York City Police and Fire Departments." The Treasury Department oversees the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Secret Service Security Agency.

Labour opposition level in Australia

CANBERRA (R) — The Australian government and opposition are again neck and neck in the race for the 13 election, a major opinion poll published Sunday shows.

The Morgan poll in the local edition of Time magazine found the Labour government and Liberal-National opposition each with 50 per cent support after redistribution of small-party votes.

It also said the Liberal-National plan for a consumption tax was the voters' biggest concern about voting for the opposition.

Unemployment, which was 10.9 per cent in January, was the biggest worry about the government.

The survey was taken a week

ago. Like most other big polls, Morgan had shown the opposition strongly ahead in the previous week or two. In its Feb. 13 and 14 poll the opposition led 53 per cent to 47.

The two sides were about even when Prime Minister Paul Keating called the election on Feb. 7.

Morgan said Mr. Keating's support as preferred prime minister was 44 per cent, up from 43 per cent a week before. Opposition leader John Hewson's support was 43 per cent, down from 44 per cent.

In Australia's voting system, small-party votes in an electoral district are redistributed to the big parties, according to voters' preferences, until one candidate has 50 per cent.

Before redistribution, the Mor-

gan poll said the opposition had 43 per cent support, down from 46 per cent a week before, and the government 42 per cent, up from 40 per cent.

Minor-party support remains steady, and much lower than in the previous election in March 1990. Morgan said the Australian Democrats' support was five per cent, unchanged since the campaign began but less than half their 11.3 per cent vote in 1990.

Asked what would make them hesitate about voting for the opposition, 44 per cent of voters mentioned consumption tax while 28 per cent doubted its ability to cut unemployment.

Forty-three per cent said unemployment and economic management were their main concerns about the government.

Elections held in 'powder-keg' of Russia

MOSCOW (R) — One-candidate presidential elections were held Sunday in Russia's volatile north Caucasian region of Ingushetia, hit by ethnic clashes last year.

The sole candidate was Major-General Ruslan Aushev, 39, an Afghan War veteran who promises the 165,000 population he will build up a stable autonomous republic within the federation.

He seemed likely to get the majority 'yes' vote he needs.

Fighting broke out in the area last year shortly after the Russian parliament decreed restoration of Ingush autonomy lost under dictator Josef Stalin.

The decree left unresolved complex territorial conflicts with neighbouring North Ossetia and Chechnya. Within weeks fighting flared between Ingushis and North Ossetians.

President Boris Yeltsin declared a state of emergency and

called in troops.

Emergency rule from Moscow has succeeded in quelling the fighting but arms still abound in the region and Russian officials say the danger of new violence runs high. They also fear conflict could spill into the ethnic Russian hinterland.

General Aushev's background reflect the fate of Ingushis after the establishment of Soviet power.

India accused of torture in Kashmir

NEW DELHI (R) — An American human rights report issued Sunday accused Indian security forces of systematically torturing detainees.

"Virtually everyone taken into custody by the security forces in Kashmir is tortured," said the report by Asia Watch and the Physicians for Human Rights group.

"Methods of torture include severe beatings, electric shock, suspension by the feet or hands, stretching the legs apart, burning with heated objects and sexual molestation," the report alleged.

"One common form of torture involves crushing the leg muscles with a heavy wooden roller," said the report by two researchers who visited Indian-ruled Kashmir in October.

It said doctors in Kashmir had reported 37 cases in which such torture had released toxins from the damaged muscles which

caused kidney failure and three people had died as a result.

The Indian government, in an official reply to the report printed as a part of it, made no direct rejoinder to the accusation of torture but said action had been taken in the past two years against more than 100 security men accused of human rights abuses.

It said punishments ranged from jail terms of under a month to seven years as well as lesser disciplinary action.

Accusations of human rights abuses by security forces have been widespread since anti-Indian agitation exploded into open rebellion in the Kashmir Valley three years ago.

Police have reported more than 9,000 deaths in the insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir, predominantly Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state.

India says Pakistan, against which it has fought three wars since both became independent

from Britain in 1947, supports the Kashmiri militants with arms, training and direction. Islamabad denies the charge.

The American report alleged that torture was used "as a means of extracting information from detainees, coercing confessions, punishing persons believed sympathetic to the militants and creating a climate of political repression."

The Indian government response rebutted the detailed charges in the report, accusing the authors of "willing gullibility."

It said searches of hospitals had uncovered arms and ammunition on nine occasions in 1992 and denied one specific charge that a patient had been disconnected from a life support system and taken away for interrogation.

The government also said militants had used hospitals as safe havens and staff had protected them out of complicity or fear.

COLUMN

Chelsea becomes a teenager

WASHINGTON (AP) — First daughter Chelsea Clinton is now a teenager. The eighth-grader turned 13 Saturday and planned to celebrate with some friends visiting from Little Rock, Ark. White House aides said she wanted to see the new Christian Slater movie, untamed Heart, a romance rated PG 13. President Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary, go out of their way to shield their daughter from the spotlight and released no other details about her birthday celebration. Chelsea made a rare TV appearance a week earlier on an ABC children's special from the White House and told her peers she "always listens" to her parents. Her dad said Chelsea's only fault was that "she would stay up too late if I let her do that." There was no word on whether curfew was suspended in honour of her birthday.

Businessman pays \$1.21m for license plate

HONG KONG (AP) — A Hong Kong businessman paid a record 9.5 million Hong Kong dollars (\$1.21 million) for the number 2 car license plate at an auction organised by the Transport Department, officials reported. Officials said businessman Wong Ming Hung, head of an investment company, will receive the plate which previously graced the Jaguar of Hong Kong's Financial Secretary Hamish MacLeod. Mr. MacLeod's vehicle will now carry the letters FS. The previous record of 5 million Hong Kong dollars (\$641,025) was paid for the car number 8 in 1988. The number 8 in Chinese sounds like the word for prosperity. A total of 50 license plates were put up for auction and raised 16 million Hong Kong dollars (\$2.05 million) for charity, the officials said.

Police corner Britain's hole in the wall boy

NEWCASTLE, England (R) — Police said they had captured a teenager known as "the hole in the wall boy" who has been living in the air ducts and tunnels of a northern England housing estate and terrorising residents. The 13-year-old has absconded from local council care more than 30 times in three years and been arrested 16 times. He has made three court appearances in connection with burglary, theft, using a car without consent and driving offences. Police in the northern English city of Newcastle said the boy was arrested after a short chase near the complex where he has been living rough. The youth, who appeared before a youth court Tuesday, had disappeared after being placed in the care of the local authorities.

Singaporeans getting sick because of health

SINGAPORE (R) — Singaporeans are falling prey to infectious diseases, in part because they are too healthy, the Straits Times said Sunday. The island state, which prides itself on its healthy lifestyle and squeaky-clean moral climate, saw a rising number of cases of measles, mumps, chicken pox and other ailments last year, according to Environment Ministry statistics. "A whole generation of Singaporeans has grown up without exposure to many diseases. This has led to lower immunity, and some epidemics," the newspaper said. Cases of German measles rose to 381 in 1992 from 31 a year earlier, measles to 501 from 216, mumps to 1,981 from 636, and chicken pox to 32,060 from 17,930, it said. Cases of conjunctivitis rose to 29,559 from 20,578, while cases of legionnaires' disease rose to 58 from 14. Viral hepatitis cases, associated with eating contaminated seafood, rose to 596 from 501. Instances of enteric fevers like typhoid rose to 162 from 132, with seven out of 10 cases contracted by Singaporeans on holiday, it said. Even a local problem long considered by stringent environmental rules persisted. Cases of mosquito-borne Dengue fever, once a leading killer on the tropical island, hit a record high of 2,878 from 2,179 in 1991.

Cameroon maths tutor makes it four

YAOUNDE (R) — A handsome mathematics tutor in Cameroon scored high marks with his teenage pupil, her two younger sisters and their mother. He seduced all four. The Cameroon Tribune said the husband put two and two together and walked out after his daughters and wife started bickering over the teacher's attractions.

U.S. to send fact-finder, not envoy, to N. Ireland

LONDON (AP) — The United States embassy to Northern Ireland will be a fact-finder, not a peace envoy, U.S. Ambassador Raymond Seitz said Sunday.

Mr. Seitz stressed in a British Broadcasting Corp. TV interview the United States would make no attempt to mediate or negotiate an end to the province's sectarian and political violence.

"The president is interested, is considering the idea of appointing a representative to go on a fact-finding mission and come back and report to him and report to the Congress," Mr. Seitz said.

"It's not a peace envoy at all. The peace envoy phrase suggests that we're going to come forward with some sort of plan or mediate or negotiate. That has not been considered and that will not happen," he said.

President Bill Clinton pledged during his election campaign to send a special envoy to Northern Ireland. British media have speculated he will appoint House Speaker Tom Foley.

Britain has opposed the idea of a peace envoy to settle what it considers to be an internal problem.

Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew, the cabinet minister responsible for the British province, Saturday urged the American embassy not to talk to Sinn Fein, the legal, political wing of the outlawed Irish Republican Army.

"I would say it is unwise and undesirable to speak to people who make use of violence for political purposes or who encourage it," Sir Patrick said.

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